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CONTENTS

27 February 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Officials View Allied Advance, UN Resolutions 1
  Kaifu: Retreat Not Enough *[KYODO]* 1
  Move Into Iraq 'Consistent' *[KYODO]* 1
  Move Against Saddam 'Violation' *[KYODO]* 1
Correction to Kaifu Support for Gulf Action 2
Lifting of Freeze on Kuwaiti Assets Planned *[KYODO]* 2
  Thaw Set for 18 March *[KYODO]* 2
Hashimoto Cautions on Rebuilding of Gulf Nations *[KYODO]* 2
Gulf Nations Interested in Seamless Pipe Supply *[KYODO]* 2
Official Says Bush Plans To Prolong GATT Talks *[KYODO]* 3
Diplomat: Formation of Asian Trade Bloc Possible *[KYODO]* 3
DPRK Official Comments U.S. Talks, ROK Stance 4
  Opening of Talks Urged *[KYODO]* 4
  ROK Stand on Gulf War Questioned *[KYODO]* 4
Ishii Elected DPRK Friendship League Chairman *[KYODO]* 5
Ministry Starts Drafting Provisional Budget Plan *[KYODO]* 5
BOJ Governor Says War End To Boost Economy *[KYODO]* 5
  EPA Says Economic Growth Slowing Down *[KYODO]* 6
Overseas Investment Decreases in FY 1990 *[KYODO]* 6
Industrial Production Rises in January *[KYODO]* 7
Large Retail Store Sales Rise in January *[KYODO]* 7
Radioactive Gas Leaks at Tokai Nuclear Institute *[Tokyo TV]* 7
LDP Candidate Wins Aomori Upper House Election *[KYODO]* 8
SDP's Ueda Studying Tokyo Gubernatorial Race *[KYODO]* 8
LDP Questions Okinawa Governor on U.S. Bases *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 25 Feb]* 8
  Governor Wants Removal of Facility *[Naha TV]* 9

Mongolia

20th MPRP Congress Opens in Ulaanbaatar 25 Feb *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 9
  Ochirbat Opens Congress *[MONTSAME]* 9
  Ochirbat Remarks on Objectives *[Berlin ADN]* 10
Unemployed Rights Council Meets in Ulaanbaatar *[MONTSAME]* 10
MONTSAME Reviews 23 Feb Press 11
MONTSAME Reviews 25 Feb Press 11

North Korea

KCNA Reports Supreme Command Communique 12
KCNA Reports 'Nuclear Strike Exercise' in South 13
Reporters Briefed on Unified Soccer Team Meeting *[KCNA]* 13
World Soccer Groups Informed of Unified Team *[KCNA]* 14
KCNA Reports Unified Table Tennis Team Meeting 14
WPK Delegation Continues Visit to Japan 15
  Meets DSPJ Figures *[KCNA]* 15
  Welcomed by Dietmen's League *[KCNA]* 15
  Holds Banquet at Conclusion of Visit *[KCNA]* 16
  Attends Social Democratic Breakfast *[KCNA]* 17

Signs Agreement With Social Democrats *[KCNA]* 17
Attends Farewell Luncheon *[KCNA]* 17
Kim Yong-sun Grants Interview *[KCNA]* 18
Kanemaru Gift for Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 18
Kanemaru Gift for Kim Chong-il *[KCNA]* 18
Tanabe Gift for Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 18
Tanabe Gift for Kim Chong-il *[KCNA]* 18
Doi Gift for Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 19
Kubo Gift for Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 19
Yamaguchi Gift for Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 19
Fukada Gift for Kim Chong-il *[KCNA]* 19
Concludes Visit, Departs 27 Feb *[KCNA]* 19
Returns to Pyongyang *[KCNA]* 20
Dietmen's League Friendship Body Holds Election *[KCNA]* 20
Paper Denounces Arrest of Dissidents in South *[KCNA]* 20
Daily Views Kim Chong-il Work on Chuche *[KCNA]* 21
Central People's Committee Awards Reporters *[Pyongyang Radio]* 21
Coal Production at Kaechon District 'Picking Up' *[KCNA]* 22
Komdok Mining Complex Tops Daily Production Goals *[KCNA]* 22

South Korea

UN Action Requested on Atomic Energy Agreement *[YONHAP]* 22
IAEA Asks North To Sign Safeguards Accord *[YONHAP]* 23
South, North Reiterate UN Entry Positions *[YONHAP]* 23
Planes Begin Flying War Supplies Into Gulf *[YONHAP]* 23
Medical, Transport Teams May Remain in Gulf *[YONHAP]* 23
Activities of Medical Mission in Gulf Noted *[THE KOREA HERALD 26 Feb]* 24
Editorial Urges End to War in Persian Gulf *[HANGYORE SINMUN 26 Feb]* 24
Postwar Rehabilitation of Middle East Discussed *[HANGUK ILBO 26 Feb]* 25
Reportage on Participation in Gulf Reconstruction *[YONHAP]* 25
North, South Name Joint Table Tennis Team *[YONHAP]* 26
Officials May Discuss Sports Exchanges in Japan *[YONHAP]* 26
Former Japanese Prime Minister Invited to DPRK *[TONG-A ILBO 23 Feb]* 26
Korean Investment District in China Discussed *[SEOUL SINMUN 26 Feb]* 27
Japan, U.S. Accused of Dumping in Korean Market *[YONHAP]* 27
Australian Convicted on Security Violation Freed *[YONHAP]* 27
Anti-Kim Chong-il Feeling in North Reported *[CHOSON ILBO 26 Feb]* 28
Party Requests Approval To Visit North *[CHUNGANG ILBO 24 Feb]* 28

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Calls For Quick Iraqi Withdrawal *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 29
Reportage on Japan; East Asia Trade Grouping *[BERNAMA]* 29
EC Voices Opinion on East Asian Economic Group *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 29
Former Communists Allowed To Create New Party *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 29

Cambodia

National Assembly To Hold Extraordinary Session 30
Announcement on Settlement Report *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 30
Standing Committee Meets on Issues *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 30
Khmer Rouge Still Getting PRC-Made Weapons *[KYODO]* 30
Military Activities in Northwest Provinces *[SPK]* 30
Reportage on Battles in Week Ending 11 February *[SPK]* 31
Greetings to Bulgarian Leaders on National Day *[SPK]* 31
Sihanouk Rejects Phnom Penh Election Plan *[Radio VODK]* 31

Resistence Seizes Vietnamese-Made Weapons *[Radio VOK]* 32
Resistance Kills Enemy Personnel, Destroys Tanks *[Radio VONADK]* 32

Indonesia

Representatives Urged To Begin Political Change *[THE JAKARTA POST 20 Feb]* 33
PRC Mining Minister Discusses Energy Needs *[ANTARA]* 33
Cambodian Refugees Land En Route to Canberra *[BERITA BUANA 19 Feb]* 33

Laos

Front Chairman Addresses Meeting in Savannakhet *[Vientiane Radio]* 34
Sisavat Keobounphan Attends District Meeting *[Vientiane Radio]* 34

Philippines

'Extensive' Antigovernment Rally Held 27 Feb *[Manila Radio]* 35
NDF Criticizes EDSA Anniversary Celebration *[DIYARYO FILIPINO 27 Feb]* 35
Aquino on 'Dwindling' Attendance at EDSA Rites *[Quezon City Radio]* 35
Presidential Aspirant Pimentel Reveals 1992 Plans *[MANILA BULLETIN 27 Feb]* 35
Nine Soldiers Killed in Abra Encounter *[Manila Radio]* 36
Armed NPA Rebels Kidnap Cagayan Mayor 25 Feb *[Quezon City Radio]* 37
Military Explains Arrests of 'Environmentalists' *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 27 Feb]* 37
Appointments Commission Confirms Army Promotions *[MALAYA 21 Feb]* 37
Senate Discusssion on Bases Consultation Urged *[PHILIPPINES NEWDAY 25 Feb]* 38
Referendum Dismissed as 'Unconstitutional' *[THE MANILA CHRONCILE 26 Feb]* 39
Senate 'Cannot Approve' New Bases Treaty *[Manila Radio]* 40
Student League Supports Referendum on Bases *[MALAYA 26 Feb]* 40
Sovereignty Asserted in U.S. Cooperation Treaty *[BUSINESS WORLD 26 Feb]* 40
U.S. Payment for Damaged Base Lands Urged *[BUSINESS WORLD 26 Feb]* 41
Court Annuls Order Granting Ministers Other Jobs *[Manila Radio]* 41
Aquino Welcomes Court Action *[Manila Radio]* 42
$3.3 Billion in Grants, Loans Pledged for 1991 *[MANILA BULLETIN 27 Feb]* 42
European Commission Commits $140 Million Aid *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 25 Feb]* 43
Foreign Debt Reduced by $2.5 Billion in 1990 *[BUSINESS WORLD 25 Feb]* 43
Senate Labor Chairman on Kuwait's Reconstruction *[Quezon City Radio]* 44

Thailand

Council To Give Interim Leader 'Full Freedom' *[BANGKOK POST 27 Feb]* 44
NPC 'Still Looking' for Caretaker Leader *[THE NATION 27 Feb]* 45
General Sunthon Gives 26 Feb News Conference *[Bangkok Radio]* 45
32d Announcement Appoints Additional Advisers *[Bangkok TV]* 45
Military Spokesman: Martial Law To Be Lifted *[AFP]* 46
Chatchai To Be Freed After Congress Formed *[THE NATION 27 Feb]* 46
Immigration Blacklists 9 From Leaving Country *[THE NATION 27 Feb]* 46
Sunthon on Advisory, National Policy Meetings *[Bangkok Radio]* 46
Students To Be Tried for Anti-Coup Protest *[AFP]* 47
Provisional Constitution Presented to King *[Bangkok Radio]* 47
NPC To Probe Brokers on 25 Feb Stock Plunge *[THE NATION 27 Feb]* 47
Sub-Committees To Check Assets, Transactions *[BANGKOK POST 27 Feb]* 48
Central Bank Vows To Aid Anticorruption Panel *[BANGKOK POST 27 Feb]* 48
Executive, Legislative Branches Separation Viewed *[Bangkok Radio]* 48
Interior Ministry Bans Labor Action, Strikes *[BANGKOK POST 27 Feb]* 49
Analysis Remarks on U.S. Attitude on Thai Coup *[SIAM RAT 27 Feb]* 49
Program Advocates 'Righteous' Men for Posts *[Bangkok Radio]* 50
Trade Talks With U.S. To Go On as Scheduled *[BANGKOK POST 27 Feb]* 51
World Bank Meeting To Go Ahead as Planned *[BANGKOK POST 27 Feb]* 51
Ministry Welcomes Saddam's Withdrawal From Kuwait *[THE NATION 27 Feb]* 51
Laos Requests Permission To Buy Cement *[BANGKOK POST 27 Feb]* 52

Vietnam

Commentary on Gulf War; Allied Land Offensive *[Hanoi International]* 52
Organization Urges Peaceful Settlement in Gulf *[VNA]* 52
Hanoi Fears Change in Thai Policy on Cambodia *[AFP]* 53
QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on Thai Changes *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
More Economic Cooperation Likely With Thailand *[Bangkok THE NATION 23 Feb]* 54
Official Interviewed on Agreements With USSR *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
French Oil Company Studying Joint Venture *[AFP]* 55
Swedish Group Invests in Highlands Education *[Hanoi TV]* 56
Congress Preparation Must Be 'Truly Democratic' *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Nguyen Xuan Hoe Article on Party Congresses *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Dong Sy Nguyen Visits Quang Ninh Province *[Hanoi Radio]* 58
Nguyen Van Linh Visits Ho Chi Minh Factory *[Hanoi Radio]* 58
Radio Reviews Feb 91 TAP CHI CONG SAN *[Hanoi Radio]* 59

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Hawke Urges Iraq To Accept All UN Resolutions *[Melbourne International]* 60
Evans: Iraqi Statements No Basis for Cease-Fire *[Melbourne International]* 60
Minister Lauds New Round of GATT Talks *[Melbourne International]* 60

Japan

Officials View Allied Advance, UN Resolutions

Kaifu: Retreat Not Enough

OW2702051691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0455 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Feb. 27 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Wednesday that Iraq's retreat from Kuwait is not enough, and pledged to continue supporting U.S.-led multinational forces until Iraq complies with all the 12 United Nations Security Council resolutions.

But he signaled that the fate of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn should be settled by the Iraqi people, not the president of the United States.

Asked in parliament about news reports that the U.S. Government may want to eliminate Husayn's government, Kaifu said the matter "is up to the Iraqi people to decide, not U.S. President (George) Bush."

Kaifu told the House of Representatives budget committee he does not believe that Bush's public statements indicate the President intends to overthrow Husayn. [passage omitted]

At a news conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto was evasive when asked Japan's views on removing Husayn from power.

Responding to questions after huddling with a Foreign Ministry aide, Sakamoto reiterated that Husayn is "unreliable," and must implement all the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Husayn has accepted Resolution 660 but has not clearly stated recognition of the oil-rich emirate, which his troops invaded on August 2 and annexed six days later. He has also rejected a resolution that would hold Iraq liable for war damages.

Until Husayn accepts all U.N. Security Council resolutions, Sakamoto said, "the war cannot be stopped. This is international opinion."

Asked whether Japan would give a nod if the multinational forces entered Baghdad, the top cabinet spokesman replied "ask Husayn."

Sakamoto's comments followed a meeting of the cabinet-level Persian Gulf crisis task force, headed by Kaifu, which convened to discuss the latest developments in the war.

The future of Husayn and his government were not discussed at the 25-minute meeting, officials said.

Move Into Iraq 'Consistent'

OW2702100091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japan's top government spokesman said Wednesday that an allied attack on a division of the Republican Guard in Iraqi territory was consistent with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"The major aim is to retake Kuwait, but to fulfill the 12 UN resolutions, force is absolutely necessary," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto.

"It is conceivable that (the U.S.-led multinational forces) will enter Iraqi territory to achieve the goals," Sakamoto told a regularly scheduled news conference.

News reports said tank crews of the U.S. VII Corps battered a division of the vaunted Republican Guard in the Iraqi desert west of Kuwait.

Iraq has so far declined to accept UN resolutions that would bind it to offer war reparations, and recognize the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

The 12th and final resolution said that nations allied with Kuwait may use "all necessary means" to make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and honor the UN resolutions.

Move Against Saddam 'Violation'

OW2702134491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—If allied forces were to advance into Baghdad with the aim of ousting the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Husayn, Japan would consider it a violation of United Nations resolutions, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official stated Tokyo's stance in the context of U.N. Resolution 678, which authorizes coalition forces to "use all necessary means" against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait.

Japan does support "minimum action" taken by allied forces in Iraqi territory, the official said.

But the official said the U.N. resolutions were not specifically aimed at ousting President Husayn and that he does not believe the allies intend to do so.

However, the coalition force's limited operations in southern Iraqi territory to prevent Iraqi troops from returning to their deserted positions in Kuwait is understood not to be a deviation from the provisions of U.N. Resolution 678, the official said.

Correction to Kaifu Support for Gulf Action

OW2502134891

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Kaifu Calls for Support," published in the 25 February East Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 1 and 2; see page 2:

Column two, last paragraph reads: Iraq," said Fukida. [new graf]

Meanwhile, a senior Foreign Ministry official told reporters that Japan would endorse the U.S.-led military operations against Baghdad even if they take place on Iraqi soil.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, noted that U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 678, which authorized the use of force to evict Iraq from Kuwait if it did not leave by January 15, does not prohibit such operations.

Asked whether he believes the U.S. intends to topple Husayn, the official merely said that that is not stipulated in the U.N. resolutions on Iraq.

He noted that the allies have said they are fighting to get Iraq out of Kuwait and to restore the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

Japan is supporting the allied activities in that sense, the official said.

"The operation seems to be basically going smoothly but Japan hopes the battle ends as soon as possible in accordance with the U.N. resolutions," the official said.

He added that Japan has not obtained any information on the fighting since allied commander Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf's press briefing Sunday. (supplying dropped passages)

Lifting of Freeze on Kuwaiti Assets Planned

OW2702154291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1532 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has decided to scrap a freeze on Kuwaiti assets in Japan, imposed shortly after Iraq's August 2 invasion of the emirate in an attempt to prevent Iraq from drawing bank deposits and other financial assets, ministry officials said Wednesday.

The decision follows similar action by the United States and Britain as occupied Kuwait was freed by U.S.-led multilateral forces.

"The freeze will be lifted as soon as possible after the Persian Gulf war ends," an official said.

Thaw Set for 18 March

OW2702162191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1613 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has decided to allow seven Kuwaiti banks to draw their deposits and other financial assets in Japan, frozen by Tokyo shortly after Iraq's August 2 invasion of the emirate, ministry officials said Wednesday.

The decision, which is to take effect March 18, was made after a request from the Kuwaiti central bank, they said.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the Bank of England took similar action early this week after the liberation of Kuwait seemed imminent as a result of a ground attack by U.S.-led multilateral forces.

The ministry has requested banks and brokerage houses operating in Japan to check carefully whether offers for withdrawals of deposits, money transfers, and sales of stocks and bonds from the Kuwaiti Government or central bank are genuine or not.

Hashimoto Cautions on Rebuilding of Gulf Nations

OW2702034491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0247 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 (KYODO)—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Wednesday that Japan is willing to do its best to help rebuild Persian Gulf countries after the war is over in the region, but pointed out that Tokyo should be careful so as not to be a target of criticism.

Hashimoto, speaking before the House of Representatives budget committee, said if Japan receives requests from Arabian countries, it will contribute to reconstructing nations damaged by the war, in consultation with other countries and in a manner that will not lead Japanese to be criticized as "economic invaders."

Gulf Nations Interested in Seamless Pipe Supply

OW2702082891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Saudi Arabia and other nations in the Persian Gulf area have been sounding out Japanese steelmakers about the possible supply of seamless pipes for the postwar reconstruction of the region, industry sources said Wednesday.

Since late last year, Nippon Steel Corp., Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., NKK Corp., and Kawasaki Steel Corp. have received such inquiries from the state-owned Saudi Arabian Oil Co. and other Middle East countries, with each amount mentioned being in hundreds of thousands of tons, the sources said.

No actual orders, however, have been placed with the four major steel manufacturers, which dominate Japan's seamless pipe supply, they said.

The anticipated special procurement boom after the end of the Persian Gulf war will provide a much-needed tonic for Japan's seamless pipe exports, which have been in a tailspin due to the yen's sharp appreciation, slower capital spending, and an oil price plunge since 1985, the sources said.

Exports represent more than 70 percent of Japan's seamless pipe production.

The sources said demand for Japanese seamless pipes will further increase, since Kuwait, devastated by the Gulf war, has yet to turn to Japan for help in its postwar reconstruction.

Most of the 950 oil wells in the country were reportedly destroyed by the Iraqi Army, and the sources said the rebuilding of the facilities will create tremendous need for seamless pipes.

Official Says Bush Plans To Prolong GATT Talks

OW2702122491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—U.S. President George Bush's move toward seeking congressional endorsement for giving him more time to negotiate the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Talks will throw their fate into the hands of an increasingly protectionist Congress, a Japanese government official said Wednesday.

Bush on Tuesday met congressional leaders in both Houses to discuss the issue of an extension of the so-called fast track mandate, which requires the Congress to vote on any set of accords that come from the talks without making amendments.

Bush is expected to ask for a two-year extension of the authority on Friday.

Bush's formal request for the extension will start three months of political maneuvers in Congress, where protectionists are calling for a more hardline stance in trade toward Japan and the European Community, said the official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The Congress must decide on the issue by June 1.

The Uruguay Round, being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), has resumed after almost three months of a stalemate on the issue of cutting farm subsidies.

The extension of the fast track authority is vital to the success of the talks since without it the Congress will be given a free hand in revising any GATT accords piece by piece into virtual nonsense, he said.

Bush will not receive an extension of the authority if either House of the Congress turns down his request for the extension by the end of May.

And "that will mean the jig is up for the Uruguay Round," the official said.

He said the Japanese Government is concerned that Washington, backed by the protectionist momentum in Congress, might apply more pressure on Japan to make concessions on nonfarm issues such as textiles, market access, and trade in services.

The official pointed out the possibility that the Congress might call on the U.S. Government to settle the issue of opening the Japanese rice market through bilateral talks.

The official added that if Tokyo wants to ward off the pressures for lifting the virtual import ban on rice, Japan will have to make sizable concessions on some long-standing U.S. requests such as mutual scrapping of tariffs on beer, and reducing tariffs on leather products, processed foods, and fisheries and forestry products.

Diplomat: Formation of Asian Trade Bloc Possible

OW2602090491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0455 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Washington, Feb. 25 KYODO—Japan and other Asian countries may form a regional trading bloc only as "defensive" action to counter trading blocs in Europe and North America, Japanese and other economic experts predicted Monday.

Hiroshi Hirabayashi, minister in charge of economic affairs in the Japanese Embassy here, said at a seminar that Japan might embrace a Malaysian proposal for an all-Asian trading bloc if the EC and North American trading blocs turned out to be protectionist.

"In Japan, skepticism is prevailing" about the Asian trading bloc, he said at a meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC).

The proper role for Japan at the moment is to be "a kind of bridge" between Asian countries and industrialized countries, Hirabayashi said.

"There are some ambivalent feelings toward Australia and New Zealand among some Asian countries," the Japanese diplomat said, referring to the Malaysian trade bloc plan which excludes the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Hirabayashi noted that Singapore and Thailand have expressed their support for an Asian trading bloc only if it is compatible with international rules and takes ASEAN initiatives into account.

Edward Lincoln, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a leading think tank, forecast that Japan will forge an Asian trading bloc with its neighbors if the EC integrated market in 1992 "turned out to be more protectionist" than it is now.

William Rapp, vice president of Mitsui Nevitt Capital Corp., said, "there will be preferential treatment" among the U.S., Canada, and Mexico which are moving to conclude a North American free trade agreement.

The Japanese diplomat suggested ways for the U.S. to avoid such a yen-based trading bloc in Asia. He said the U.S. should reemphasize its relations with Asia and avoid unilateral and punitive action against newly industrialized economies and developing countries in Asia.

"Japan is more lenient toward them than the U.S.," he said at the seminar.

"Former President Ronald Reagan placed more emphasis on U.S. relations with Asia than the current Bush administration," he added.

DPRK Official Comments U.S. Talks, ROK Stance

Opening of Talks Urged

OW2702065491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0553 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 (KYODO)—A senior official of North Korea's ruling party renewed on Wednesday Pyongyang's call for opening talks with Washington to promote the unification of the two Koreas.

Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Korean Workers Party, told reporters it is imperative to hold talks between North Korea and the United States to deepen understanding between the two countries and to pave the way for peace in the Korean peninsula.

"We have opened the door to the U.S.," Kim said, but accused Washington of making no positive response to the North Korean proposal spelled out since 1980.

He condemned the U.S. for conducting the U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit" military drill, currently under way, which has raised tensions in the Korean peninsula.

On Tuesday, North Korea's official news agency KCNA reported that North Korea has ordered its military to maintain combat preparedness during the military exercise "in the face of the grave situation in which a potential danger of a new war has been created."

Kim, who is in charge of international affairs in the North Korean governing party, referred to North and South Korea's bid to join the United Nations and said Pyongyang has not changed its stance on the issue, which is that the two Koreas should share one seat in the world organization.

Meeting Japanese reporters shortly before flying home after an eight-day visit to Japan, Kim said he has received a strong impression that Japan hopes to improve relations with North Korea.

Kim, a close aide to North Korean President Kim Il-song, said he has become convinced, through discussions with representatives of Japanese political parties, civic groups, and the ordinary Japanese people, that they expect the improvement of bilateral relations between North Korea and Japan.

He said North Korea hopes to deepen its relations with Japan in a spirit of equality and reciprocity after the normalization of diplomatic relations.

Japan and North Korea, which launched intergovernmental talks in Pyongyang in January aimed at establishing diplomatic ties, are scheduled to hold the second round in Tokyo on March 11.

ROK Stand on Gulf War Questioned

OW2602125491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—A leading North Korean party official, speaking at a press meeting here Tuesday, questioned South Korea's "attitude" regarding the Persian Gulf war, insisting there was no relation between hostilities in the Middle East and tension on the Korean peninsula.

Kim Yong-sun, the Korean Workers Party (KWP) secretary for international affairs, told the foreign correspondents club press conference that North Korea's policy has not changed since it first denounced Iraq last August for its invasion of Kuwait. He added that the people in the Gulf region should solve the problem in their own way.

Kim, however, took the opportunity posed by a South Korean correspondent's question to criticize Seoul for putting the South Korean military on alert and linking the Gulf war to the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Some military analysts in South Korea have suggested that North Korea might use the Gulf war as an opportunity to strike across the border in an attempt to unify the peninsula by force, similar to the invasion that initiated the bloody 1950-53 Korean War.

Coming at a time when the two sides are attempting to agree on a declaration of non-aggression in inter-Korean talks, Kim wondered rhetorically, "Why should the South Korean authorities harp on and clamor about the 'threat' from the North?"

Kim also condemned the upcoming joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises, saying the war games run counter to an atmosphere of dialogue.

He added, however, that Pyongyang remains sincere about preparing for the fourth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, which it called off last week because of the "Team Spirit" maneuvers.

During the 45-minute press conference, Kim deflected suggestions that Pyongyang was seeking improved relations with Tokyo in order to extract compensation money from the Japanese to revive the stagnant North Korean economy. •

He indirectly denied the contentions of some North Korea watchers by insisting that it was Japan that first called for the talks aimed at normalizing Tokyo-Pyongyang ties.

He praised the North Korean economy as an "independent" economy, using the rich natural resources of North Korea, the nation's own technology and the efforts of the people.

Kim remarked that North Korea does not have a long history of industrial development and added that "we have made 100 strides while others were making one" in describing North Korea's rising from the ashes of the Korean war.

Insisting that the North Korean economy can produce what its people need, Kim said the normalization of relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang would contribute to the "common prosperity" of both nations.

Kim said he would leave Japan at the end of his week-long visit with the "strongest impression" that many people in Japan desire improved relations with North Korea.

Ishii Elected DPRK Friendship League Chairman

OW2602125991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—The Dietmen's League for Promotion of Japan-(North) Korea Friendship selected Hajime Ishii as chairman in a meeting Tuesday.

The chairman is a Liberal Democratic Party member of the lower house and a former director general of the National Land Agency.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru and Makoto Tanabe, vice chairman of the top opposition Social Democratic Party, were elected as the league's key advisors.

Ishii told reporters the league will also allow members of the Japan-(South) Korea Parliamentarians League to participate in its activities.

Ministry Starts Drafting Provisional Budget Plan

OW2502131491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text) Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance (MOF) on Monday started drafting a provisional budget plan for fiscal 1991 as Diet deliberations on the full budget for the fiscal year have become bogged down, ministry officials said Monday.

Budget talks in the Diet have fallen behind schedule due to wrangling between the governing Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition over funding 9 billion dollar additional assistance Japan pledged to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

It is the fifth consecutive year the ministry has been required to compile a provisional budget.

The latest budget will total 4-5 trillion yen and cover the government's expenses for the first 14 to 20 days of fiscal 1991, which begins on April 1, according to the officials.

Due to the delay in the debate, the Diet approval of the fiscal 1991 budget plan, which totals 70,347.4 billion yen in the general account, will not likely come until mid-April, ministry sources said.

The provisional budget will earmark only ordinary expenditures such as personnel and social security costs, the officials said.

BOJ Governor Says War End To Boost Economy

OW2702101791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0806 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday that an end to the Persian Gulf War should help stimulate the Japanese economy, now in its 51st straight month of expansion but with its growth pace slowing down.

Speaking at a regular press meeting, Mieno added that the nation's economy is still strong and the central bank does not see any need to ease its current monetary policy.

An end to the Gulf war should also stabilize worldwide prices and have a favorable effect on the global economy, Mieno said.

The central bank chief said that the war has weighed heavily on the world economy with wildly fluctuating petroleum prices.

This has cooled consumer spending and corporate capital investment, and has made the world economic outlook unclear, he said.

Such uncertainty has shadowed the economies of such countries as the United States, which has already sunk into a recession, he said.

But when the war ends, the economic environment will become clearer, consumer confidence will come back, and in addition, strong demand for reconstruction in the war-torn Middle East will boost the world economy, Mieno predicted.

Concerning the domestic economy, the central bank governor said it is still continuing healthy growth.

He said the slowdown shown in January industrial output figures and December leading economic indicators, both reported Tuesday, is acceptable after such a long period of continuous growth.

Mieno repeated his concern over persistent inflationary pressure, saying that consumer prices have been increasing due to higher costs of labor, transportation, and materials.

The money supply situation is also not yet good enough for the central bank to take a relaxed view of it, Mieno said.

Japan's broadly defined money supply—M2 (cash in circulation and time and demand deposits) plus certificates of deposit—showed the smallest growth in more than seven years in January at 7.3 percent. It was the third straight month of single-digit growth and the fourth consecutive monthly drop since October last year.

But Mieno said the growth of the money supply remains relatively high, compared with the real economic situation evaluated by overall factors, including Gross National Product (GNP).

The central bank, therefore, "shall not ease the current tight grip on monetary policy, and will continue monitoring the effects of the past interest rate hikes," Mieno said.

The comment clearly brushed aside expectations of an early cut in the official discount rate, which now stands at 6 percent following a series of five hikes in the key rate since May 1989.

Asked whether the tight money policy will have an "overkill" effect on the economy, he denied this, saying that corporations still have ample funds on hand.

As for the proposed plan to tighten capital adequacy requirements by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the central bank chief expressed an optimistic view.

The BIS is expected to introduce a rule by the end of March 1994 which will no longer allow banks to count their reserves against loans to debt-ridden countries as capital.

Japanese banks are required by the BIS to raise their capital-to-asset ratio to 8 percent by the end of March 1993.

In addition to this already set requirement, the introduction of the new rule is causing concern to Japanese banks that it will be a considerable burden to them.

Mieno said, however, the new step will trim 0.2 percent of the capital in the case of commercial banks, which will not be very heavy for them, and there is also plenty of time to prepare for it.

"Japan's banks will fairly (easily) meet such a rule," he added.

EPA Says Economic Growth Slowing Down

OW2602124191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan's leading index of economic indicators stayed below the "boom-or-bust" line for the fourth month in a row in December, apparently pointing to a slowdown in the pace of the nation's economic growth, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said in a preliminary report Tuesday.

But, EPA officials said Japan's economy is still expanding at a moderate pace.

The leading index, which serves as a key barometer to project economic performance a few months ahead, stood at 27.3 percent in December, dragged down by weaker housing-related indices and inventory figures.

The index consists of 13 items, of which 11 were counted in the preliminary report.

The November figure was 33.3 percent.

An EPA official predicted that the confirmed figure in a couple of months time will be at a similar level, but said lower oil prices and easier interest rates together with a possible settlement in the Persian Gulf, may help bring about a return to stronger growth.

Last time the leading index stayed below the 50 percent line for four consecutive months [was] from November 1989 to February 1990.

The coincident indicator, which gives the present economic picture, rebounded to over 50 percent after staying below the line for two straight months.

The preliminary figure was based on 10 of the 11 items that constitute the index.

The EPA officials attributed the rebound to a relatively higher operating ratio among manufacturers and an increase in job openings.

The EPA says that if the coincident index stays below the boom-or-bust line of 50 percent for three successive months, it may signal a turning point in the economy.

The lagging index of indicators, which reflects business performance in the past couple of months, jumped to 83.3 percent, supported by factors such as lower unemployment figures.

Data on six out of eight items were available for the report.

Overseas Investment Decreases in FY 1990

OW2602124691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Direct overseas investment by Japanese firms fell for the first time in eight years in fiscal 1990, dipping 2.8 percent from the previous financial year, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

The crisis in the Persian Gulf and the recession in Europe and the United States halted four straight years of sharp rises in Japanese direct overseas investment which had been fueled by a stronger yen and escalating trade tensions.

The bank predicted sluggish growth in direct foreign investment in the years to come.

The 233 manufacturing firms responding to the survey are expected to make overseas loans and investments totaling 1,588.2 billion yen in fiscal 1990, down by 2.8 percent or 45.8 billion yen from the year before.

The poll found the firms plan to slash their overseas loans and investments by 10.4 percent in fiscal 1991 year from the current fiscal year.

The decrease in direct foreign investment in fiscal 1990 and the projected drop in fiscal 1991, after sharp increases averaging 60 percent in the four years between fiscal 1986 and fiscal 1989, are a clear signal that growth has peaked, an economist at the governmental bank said.

The economist blamed the turnaround in financial year 1990 to the recession-battered U.S. economy, the Gulf crisis, and the declining number of large-scale mergers and acquisitions.

Many firms also revealed that most of their targets for direct foreign investment have just about been achieved, which could be another reason for the slowdown, he said.

The percentage of those polled indicating that they currently have loan and investment plans for the upcoming several years fell to 75 percent from 85 percent in 1989, the last time such a survey was taken.

The number of respondents indicating that they planned to step up their loans and investments in the years ahead was about equal to those saying that they planned to either halt or reduce them.

The bank interpreted this to mean that direct overseas investment will be entering a period of consolidation in the years to come.

Industrial Production Rises in January

OW2602121391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan's industrial production in January rose a seasonally adjusted 1.1 percent from the previous month after two consecutive month-on-month declines, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry reported Tuesday.

The industrial production index stood at 129.5 in January against 100 in the base year of 1985, the ministry said.

The upturn followed a 0.7 percent fall in December and a 0.8 percent slip in November.

Production at factories and mines in January, on an unadjusted basis, was 7.3 percent higher than the year-earlier level, the ministry said.

Production in the machinery, metal products, and chemical manufacturing sectors surged, while that in the precision machinery and electronics sectors softened.

Shipments in the month were up 1.0 percent from the previous month, with the index standing at a seasonally adjusted 130.0, and 6.1 percent higher than the same month last year.

January inventories edged up 0.6 percent from December when seasonal factors are counted in, and rose 0.8 percent from a year before.

The inventory index stood at a seasonally adjusted 111.1.

Large Retail Store Sales Rise in January

OW2602121191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0619 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Sales at department stores and supermarkets in January rose 8.2 percent from a year earlier to 1,746.4 billion yen, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) reported Tuesday.

The year-on-year increase followed a 6.4 percent rise in December and a 6.6 percent climb in November.

Sales at 378 department stores nationwide totaled 892.4 billion yen, up 7.8 percent from the year-earlier level, while those at 1,979 supermarkets came to 8,540 billion yen, up 8.7 percent, according to MITI's monthly report on large-scale retail stores.

Sales of winter clothes were quite brisk, propelled by end-of-season bargain sales.

Also contributing to the year-on-year rise in sales at large retail outlets were sales of food, the ministry said.

But sales of works of art and craft items slowed down, it said.

Radioactive Gas Leaks at Tokai Nuclear Institute

OW2702092491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Gas containing radioactive matter has accidentally leaked at the Tokai Research Institute of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute [JAERI] in Tokai Mura [village], Ibaraki Prefecture, contaminating a part of the facility.

The accident occurred at a facility for testing safety of radioactive waste at the JAERI Tokai Research Institute. The institute had switched on emergency power to upgrade a generating plant facility. On 23 February, at about 1300, the power source was suddenly cut off, causing the air-conditioning facility to stop. Consequently gas containing cesium and other radioactive matter leaked from a special compartment into a work area, thus contaminating a part of the facility with radioactivity.

The facility in question conducts research to find safe ways of storing high-grade radioactive waste generated from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. The JAERI said that the radioactive matter had not leaked outside the facility and that the neighborhood residents, as well as employees of the facility, were not affected.

LDP Candidate Wins Aomori Upper House Election

OW2402142091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Aomori, Feb. 24 KYODO—Ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate Kanpei Matsuo, a former member of the House of Councillors turned out by voters in 1989, scored a comeback victory in Sunday's House of Councillors by-election in Aomori Prefecture.

Matsuo, 64, had 240,129 votes against 197,598 for Seiichi Kubo, 39, backed by the largest opposition Social Democratic Party, formerly called the Japan Socialist Party. Chizuko Takahashi, 31, of the Japanese Communist Party received 42,454 votes.

Voter turnout was 43.02 percent, down 18.43 percent from the previous election in 1989.

Matsuo was first elected to the House of Councillors in 1980 but lost his seat in the upper chamber in 1989.

Sunday's election was conducted to fill the post vacated by Tatsuo Yamazaki of the LDP, who stepped down to run in the Aomori gubernatorial election February 3, which he lost.

With Matsuo's victory, the LDP maintained its strength of 114 seats in the 252-seat Upper House, 13 short of a simple majority.

SDP's Ueda Studying Tokyo Gubernatorial Race

OW2302192891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1638 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Tetsu Ueda, a Diet member from the leading opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), said on Saturday he would carefully consider whether to run in the Tokyo gubernatorial election in early April.

Ueda, a member of the House of Representatives, made the remark during a meeting with seven representatives from the SDP Tokyo chapter at his office where they asked him to run in the election.

The 63-year-old veteran politician also stressed the need for combined strength within his party if he runs in the election, pointing to the possibility of a split between the party headquarters and the Tokyo chapter.

The Tokyo chapter decided earlier in the day to field its own candidate in the April 7 election.

The SDP national headquarters failed to find a suitable candidate for the election, the highlight of the upcoming nationwide elections for local officials on that day.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party have jointly decided to field former Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) anchorman Hisanori Isomura to run against incumbent Gov. Shunichi Suzuki, who is seeking reelection for a fourth four-year term.

The three parties withdrew their backing for the 80-year-old Suzuki ostensibly on the grounds of his age.

Other candidates include Shigeo Hatada, an international politics scholar backed by the Japanese Communist Party, Antonio Inoki, a pro-wrestler and member of the House of Councillors, and Makiko Hamada, wife of Takujiro Hamada, an LDP lower house member.

LDP Questions Okinawa Governor on U.S. Bases

OW2602171991 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 25 Feb 91 Evening Edition p 1

[Excerpts] The regular session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly opened at 1000 on 25 February. Interpellation by party representatives opened the session's activities. Megumi Shimura of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party was the first to question the governor about his administration.

Shimura criticized the government decision to abolish partially the consumption tax imposed on public charges, saying: "Such action creates unfairness anew. This is representative of the nature of the Ota-led prefectural government." [passage omitted]

Shimura also raised the question of the governor acting on behalf of the national government in making official announcements on the extended use of land by the military. He asked the governor to clarify if "the governor intends to continue performing this function."

On the question of making public documents concerning the approval of extended land use by U.S. military bases, Governor Ota avoided making a clear statement. He replied: "I am studying this matter carefully, from a legal standpoint and within the spirit of an autonomous government. I would like to come to a decision at an early date." [passage omitted]

When Shimura asked Governor Ota if he thought that the existence of the U.S. military bases violated the Constitution, the governor replied: "The Japan-U.S. security treaty was ratified by the Diet. It cannot be said that the existence of the bases violates the Constitution."

Governor Wants Removal of Facility

OW2702123991 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Governor Masahide Ota disclosed for the first time today that his prefectural administration plans to call on the national government to remove the U.S. forces' urban combat training facility from Onna Village. In his reply to an interpellator at the prefectural assembly session, he said that he wants to request the national government to remove the facility. The national government is currently examining the issue of relocating this facility.

The prefectural assembly session was originally scheduled to hear interpellations from representatives of all the floor groups for two days—yesterday and the day before yesterday. However, the session remained stalled over Governor Ota's replies to questions on the Self-Defense Forces and other issues. Hence, four members were to continue their interpellations today.

In her interpellation Communist member Hisako Hokama pointed out that the national government is considering the issue of relocating the U.S. forces' urban combat training facility, located in Onna Village, elsewhere. She then asked the governor if his prefectural administration has a plan to call on the national government to remove the facility.

In reply, Governor Ota said that he could not permit the urban combat training facility because live ammunition is used for training there, an area located close to a residential area. The national government, he said, is considering the issue of relocating it but the Okinawa prefectural government wants to call for its removal, not its relocation. Thus, he disclosed for the first time that the Okinawa prefectural government plans to call on the national government to remove the U.S. military training facility.

Representative Hokama also noted that 33 municipalities in Okinawa Prefecture have declared their localities nuclear-free and asked the governor if he had any intention of declaring Okinawa Prefecture nuclear free.

In response, Governor Ota said that he thinks that would be of significance in view of the tragic war experienced in Okinawa. He added that he wants to make the declaration at an early date.

Mongolia

20th MPRP Congress Opens in Ulaanbaatar 25 Feb

OW2502141791 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The 20th Congress of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] opened in Ulaanbaatar on February the 25th, which is attended by 409 delegates representing about 100,000 party members from all over the country. The 3-day congress is being attended also by the leaders of the other political parties in Mongolia, as well as delegations of Communist Parties from the Soviet Union and China.

The path of Mongolia's development and progress lies not in the rejection of the ideas of socialism but its creative application suited to the specific conditions of Mongolia. Therefore, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party feels that in order to accomplish this object all aspects of social life should be consistently democratized, existing political structures further streamlined, the market economy established, an open door policy should be promoted, and all the internal resources should be mobilized for developing social production and the scientific and intellectual potentialities should be used to the most.

Ochirbat Opens Congress

OW2702050491 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1905 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 25 Feb (MONTSAME)—The regular 20th Congress of the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] began its work today at the meeting hall of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] People's Great Hural. The congress was opened by Gombojabyn Ochirbat, chairman of the MPRP Central Committee. He reported that 407 delegates of 409 elected at city and aymag conference of MPRP organization are taking part in the 20th Congress.

Congress delegates then elected a presidium of the 20th Congress consisting of 30 people and adopted the congress agenda. The congress will debate the reports on the social and political situation in the MPR, tasks of the MPRP, the thesis on the historic path of the MPRP, the reports of the Central Control Commission and the Credentials Commission, and draft additions and amendments to the program and rules of the MPRP.

G. Ochirbat told congress delegates that delegations of the CPSU and CPC are taking part in the work of the congress as guests.

Delivering the report at the congress "The Social and Political Situation in the MPR and Tasks of the MPRP," G. Ochirbat, chairman of the ruling party's Central Committee, said that for its 20th Congress the MPRP had prepared concise conclusions on the path traversed by the party over 70 years.

When analyzing and assessing the past and present and determining tasks for tomorrow, he continued, we draw support from the collective wisdom of the party and people. The drafts of additions and amendments being made in the program and rules of the party and basic directions for party renewal were discussed by the entire party.

The MPRP concept on restructuring and renewal did not arise spontaneously, the reporter noted. On the contrary, it was elaborated gradually, step by step during the process of development finding approval through life.

The convocation of the extraordinary MPRP Congress (April 1990), the adoption at the congress of the new program and rules, and the election of a new Central Committee were of important significance not only for party-conceptual and organizational renewal but for deepening the process of renewal of all of society. During implementation of the decisions of this congress, which marked a turning point in the history of the MPRP, qualitative changes occurred in the party's life, G. Ochirbat said. In particular the MPRP has taken a step from being a party of theoretical dogmatism toward becoming a creatively thinking party asserting pluralism of opinions. From a supercentralized state party relying on administrative leadership methods it is changing into a genuinely democratic party based on the principles of democratic unity and acting solely through political means, the reporter indicated.

By nature the MPRP is a party of people's democracy following the ideas of scientific socialism. In its actions it invariably proceeds from the principles of social development, national concord, free development and prosperity of every citizen, humanism, democracy, equality, and peace and friendship.

G. Ochirbat noted that the MPR will [words indistinct] activity [words indistinct] state and government aimed at strengthening the independence of the MPR, creating favorable external conditions to ensure economic [words indistinct] and nonalignment, strengthening the country's positions in the world community [words indistinct] people.

The primary position in the party's external policy will be [words indistinct] our great neighbors, the USSR and PRC and their communist parties. The Mongolian-Soviet summit meeting, the working visit of an MPRP delegation to the Soviet Union in May last year, the recent meeting between Presidents P. Ochirbat and M. S. Gorbachev, as well as the visit to the USSR and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] by MPR Prime Minister D. Byambasuren were of great significance. In a word, it should be said that wholesale denial of the fruit of Mongolian-Soviet friendship and cooperation and their depiction in solely negative terms does not correspond with reality. That is why the party resolutely will oppose any such attempts, G. Ochirbat stressed.

We are gladdened by normalization and the successful development of relations between the MPR and PRC, and the MPRP and CPC. The MPR highly assesses the significance of the official visit of the head of the MPR state to the PRC held last year. At the invitation of the CPC Central Committee, the chairman of the MPRP Central Committee made a visit to the PRC during which an exchange of opinions took place on questions of concern to both sides on Mongolian-Chinese relations and interparty cooperation. The MPRP will cooperate with any political parties of other countries coming out for equality, justice, and democracy and for freedom and social progress.

The political situation in the world is characterized by great complexity. The bloody war continuing in the Persian Gulf region elicits serious concern in the world community, including the Mongolian people. We consider inhuman the solution of contentious problems between states by military means, and the destruction of the peaceful population and material and cultural riches created by many generations of these people, the reporter noted.

Ochirbat Remarks on Objectives

LD2502230991 Berlin ADN in German 1616 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Ulaanbaator (ADN)—It is the objective of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) to build scientific socialism in a democratic way, said the head of the Mongolian Communist Party, Gombojabyn Ochirbat at the opening of the 20th party congress in Ulaanbaator today. The teachings of Marx and Lenin are out-of-date; but the party, however, remains committed to its traditions. The over 400 delegates agreed to keep the party's name and came out in favor of a continuation of the process of democratic reforms.

The multiparty system established itself in the Mongolia of today, the there is freedom of speech and press, Gombojabyn stated. However, in the current period of transition to a market economy serious economic problems have a negative influence and threaten political stability in the country. At the same time, doubts about the feasability of Mongolian perestroyka are growing and the people's confidence in the political parties is fading. The MPRP still wants to cooperate with other parties of the country. Priorities in foreign policy are for developing friendly relations with the USSR and China and extending cooperation with these countries.

Representatives of the CPSU and the Chinese Communist Party are the only foreign guests at the 3-day congress, which is to adopt an updated political program of the party as well as a new statute.

Unemployed Rights Council Meets in Ulaanbaatar

OW2302200491 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1710 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 23 (OANA-MONTSAME)—The meeting of the Council of Movement Defending the Rights of the Unemployed was held in Ulaanbaatar. It worked out the directions of the movement' activities for the near future. In connection with the growth of unemployment in the country the participants of this meeting agreed that it was expedient to solve this complicated problems on the level state organs with the participation of government officials, Ministry of Labour and the movement. So they decided to submit a proposal to the government for consideration.

MONTSAME Reviews 23 Feb Press

OW2302201191 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1724 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 23 (OANA-MONTSAME)—The national daily "ARDYN ERH" reports that at its yesterday's meeting the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Government heard the information made by Prime Minister D. Byambasuren on the outcome of his recent visits to the USSR and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]. D. Byambasuren noted that the sides discussed the problems of enhancing the efficiency of Mongol-Soviet cooperation on the basis of progressive principles of international relations. He pointed out that during the meeting with Soviet President M.S. Gorbachev, he and the Soviet president emphasized the need of taking well care of many-years' traditions of relations between the two countries and renewing the methods and forms of cooperation. D. Byambasuren stated that the talks with Soviet Prime Minister V.S. Pavlov had demonstrated the community of views of the two sides on urgent problems of renovation taking place in both countries and bilateral relations. D. Byambasuren informed the government of the accords reached in the respect of real estimatiom and solution of questions dealing with the MPR debt and to revise earlier signed treaties and agreements in new conditions.

The meeting also discussed the questions dealing with the preparations for the forthcoming 46th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). The government supported the proposal of the amalgamation of food industry to sign an agreement with the kin organization in China in order to set up with its assistance a sugar plant in 1991-1993 for processing sugarbeet, which is expected to be planted in Mongolia.

The paper also reports on the work of the (?enlarged) session of the MPR Academy of Sciences, which continues to discuss the draft law on the status of the MPR Academy of Sciences and its draft rules. The session will elect a new president of the MPR Academy of Sciences on an alternative bsis. As many as 14 doctors of sciences and candidates, nominated by scietific and research institutes and scientific organizations, are to take part in the elections for the president.

The paper carries articles by MPR State Little Hural [SLH] members, who are now in rural areas to acquaint themselves with the life and work of the rural population. H. Purevdagva, SLH member, who was in Arhangai Aimag (Province), writes that rural people display great interest to legislative activities of the Little Hural and the government resolution on shifting the country to market economy. On the same view is G. Zuunai, SLH member, who visited Omnogovi Aimag.

An article by D. Sugar, department head of the Justice Ministry, is devoted to the legal basis of the attitude to property. He attaches great signficance to the changes, made in the MPR civilian code, which envisages the development of differents forms of property.

The newspaper "UNEN" reports on various measures, which are being held in aimags and towns of the country in anticipation of the forthcoming 20th MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] congress, which is to open on 25 February 1991. The delegates from aimags have started coming to the capital to participate in the party congress.

"UNEN" writes that the bureau of the Central MPRP Auditing Commission at its meeting has restored the party membership of prominent Mongolian leaders D. Bodoo, S. Danzan and D. Shagdarjav, who founded the MPRP. Later on they were repressed on the charge of counter-revolutionary activities.

The paper reports that the movement "Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union" [MRYU] held its congress where the representatives from 16 aimags and 3 towns participated. They discussed the report on the present-day state of affairs and further tasks of the MRYU, approved its programme and a temporary rule and elected the MRYU Central Committee [CC]. The congress was followed by the MRYU CC Plenum and elected J. Bayrhuu CC chairman.

The paper also writes that the first meeting of the General Council of the Union of Mongolian Youth (UMY) was held in the Mongolian capital. S. Bayartsogt, UMY president, made information on the activities and future tasks of the union. The congress also discussed the questions dealing with interrelations of the Union of Mongolian Youth with other youth organizations and movements as well as the convening of the first gathering of the Mongolian youth and the status of the UMY president.

Mongolian mass media widely covers the course of the international free-style wrestling tournament "Mongoliagovi-1991", which is earlier known as "International". It is the 20th time, this well-known competition is being held in the Mongolian capital. The strongest teams from Afghanistan, China, South Korea, USSR and Mongolia are taking part in this tournament.

MONTSAME Reviews 25 Feb Press

OW2502192191 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1706 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 23 (OANA-MONTSAME)—[Passage indistinct] poor peoples and unemployed in the USA. He notes that there are more jobs than the number of unemployed. And he considers that these unemployed in the USA. He noting because of unsuitable working conditions the or they just don't want to work. As far as the MDA [Mongolian Democratic Association] activity is concerned Ts. Enhtuvshin says that the association should focus the attention on the protection of the vital interests of the working people as the MDA now is able to carry independent political activities. All these questions will be discussed at the forthcoming MDA conference.

The newspaper carries a material of its correspondent N. Lhagva, who writes that in the rural areas in Zavhan Aimag (an administrative centre in particular) not proper attention is paid to solving social problems of the people and cultural service.

The paper also publishes an article by N. Nagaanbuu. He notes that the Mongolian traditions of studying the genealogical tree of the families are buried in oblivion. The author writes that the Mongolian nation consists of many nationalities and the peoples of these nationalities should not forget their origin under the pretext of "internationalism".

The trade union newspaper "HUDULMUR" published a special issue. The newspaper is going to publish such issues periodically it contains the materials of different authors without any editorial correction offering the readers to analyse various views thesmelves. The paper carries materials about staff "games" around the Mongolian Trade Union Federation and the Free Mongolian Trade Union Council. This impedes the protection of the working people's interest. The newspaper also publishes materials about the growing deficit in foodstuffs and the infringement of people's rights due a fault of the bureaucratic approaches.

The newspaper publishes the draft platform and the procedure of the work of the Mongolian Motor-Transport Workers' Union, which will be discussed at its first congress.

The central police newspaper "NUGEL BUYAN"("SIN AND GOOD DEED") carries materials dealing with the problems of using the death penalty. Many readers are for the use of this kind of punishment in regard to incorrigible criminals and murderers.

The paper also gives the police report on different kinds of crimes and offences.

North Korea

KCNA Reports Supreme Command Communique

SK2602163791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1553 GMT 26 Feb 91

["Communique of KPA [Korean People's Army] Supreme Command: The Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army Issues Order to the Entire Units of the Korean People's Army, the Korean People's Security Forces and All the Members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards To Take a Position of Combat Mobilisation—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—A communique of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army [KPA] was published here today, the full text of which reads:

The U.S and South Korean bellicose elements, defying the unanimous protest and denunciation of the entire Korean people and the world peaceloving people, have launched at last the adventurous "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises this year, leading the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

This is an intolerable challenge to our Republic and our people who are making sincere efforts for peace on the Korean Peninsula and its peaceful reunification and an intolerable criminal act to plunge the situation on the Korean Peninsula again into a perilous vortex. Due to this reckless nuclear war game, the inter-Korean high-level talks and all other dialogues which had brought great expectations to the entire fellow countrymen and the peaceloving people of the world are in a serious crisis and our fair proposals and persevering efforts for national reunification which indicated a bright future and dawn to the entire nation face a challenge.

On the Korean Peninsula, the sprouts of detente have disappeared and a very dangerous situation which might explode the powder magazine any moment is prevailing.

The United States and the South Korean authorities repeatedly held confabs from the end of last year, openly revealing their plan of the criminal "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers.

In accordance with the aggressive Korea policy of the United States, the South Korean puppets have strengthened the military fascist system to cope with a war time by launching a repressive campaign against the pro-reunification patriotic forces at the end of last year with the mobilization of numerous puppet troops, police, "reserve forces" and all other repressive forces millions of men all told, under the vicious cloak of "war against crimes."

To be staged in this period are such major operations as combined landing operation, aerial mobile strike operation, river-crossing operation and commando operation.

As already exposed, the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are aggressive ones in view of their contents and their nature from A to Z; they are a preliminary war and a test nuclear war aimed at a surprise pre-emptive strike at the Northern half of our Republic.

It is well known to the world that through their "Team Spirit" joint military exercises that have been staged annually since 1976 the U.S. and the South Korean authorities have already rounded off the preparations for an armed invasion against our Republic.

The adventurous "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have brought dark clouds of nuclear holocaust to hang over the heads of our people and created an emergency situation in which a new war may break out in our country.

Today when the Gulf war broke out and it is escalating into a bloody scourge, no one can vouch that the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises may not go over to a real war.

The hysteric war racket of the United States and the South Korean puppets is aimed at unleashing a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula and blocking the way of peace and peaceful reunification there for good and destroying our Republic with strength.

Moreover, we cannot overlook the ill-boding moves of the United States and the South Korean puppets to use for a sinister purpose the imbalance of Armed Forces which has been created by our military reduction by 100,000 men which we have already carried out on our own initiative.

In face of the grave situation in which a potential danger of a new war has been created in our country owing to the reckless military provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army issued an order to the entire units of the three services of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces and all the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards to keep themselves in full combat preparedness with a high degree of the revolutionary vigilance.

The officers and men of the Korean People's Army and the people's security forces who are participating in peaceful economic construction have been ordered to be fully ready to go into emergency action any moment.

This is a legitimate self-defensive step to cope with the new war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean puppets.

The United States and the South Korean authorities must stop at once the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, clearly mindful that there is a limit to our patient efforts.

Our people love peace and do not want confrontation and war.

Our party and the government of our Republic will make every possible effort to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula and create a precondition for peace and peaceful reunification.

If the United States and the South Korean puppets persistently follow the road of a war of aggression, mistaking our peaceloving efforts for a sign of weakness, our revolutionary Armed Forces and the entire Korean people will rise as one man and fight in defence of the inviolable socialist motherland and the precious gains of revolution.

The entire units of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces, the members of the worker-peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards and the entire people will defend the land, sea and sky of the motherland as firm as a rock by taking full combat readiness so as to smash any provocative move of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in time with heightened revolutionary vigilance.

KCNA Reports 'Nuclear Strike Exercise' in South

SK2702075691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0644 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command staged one more aerial nuclear strike exercise in South Korea on Feb. 25 under the program of the provocative "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to military sources. Mobilised in the aerial nuclear war exercise in the sky above Yoju and Chongju that day were formations of nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers from Kadena Base, Okinawa, and F-16, F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers, A-37 assault planes and OA-10 observation planes of the U.S. Airforce stationed in South Korea and the South Korean puppet airforce, more than 100 in all. The U.S. imperialists kicked up a racket, bringing to Osan and Kunsan Airfields formations of C-130 transport planes carrying aggressor troops and combat equipment from Japan and overseas bases in the Pacific and deploying them in the operational zone for the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises. They sent Guam-based KC-135 refuelling tanker to the sky above Taegu for the war exercise of refuelling in the air 28 F-16 fighter-bombers of the U.S. Airforce. On Feb. 25 and 26 U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and RC-12 and RV-1 tactical reconnaissance planes made shuttle flights between the east and west along the Military Demarcation Line for aerial photographing of the targets in our side's depth and frontline area. In separate action, the South Korean puppets staged a frantic ground and naval offensive operation exercises against the North supported by dozens of F-16, F-4, F-5, A-37 and OA-10 planes with a massive mobilisation of infantry and motorized units and combatant vessels on Feb. 25 in Uijongbu, Hwachon and Kapyong and in the West Sea of Korea. A total number of aircraft mobilised in the war exercises in the sky above South Korea on February 25 was more than 670.

Reporters Briefed on Unified Soccer Team Meeting

SK2602155091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Panmunjom February 26 (KCNA)—The second meeting of the Working Committee was held in camera at the Tongil House in our side's portion of Panmunjom today to discuss practical matters for the participation of a unified team of the North and the South in the Sixth World Youth Soccer Championships.

After the meeting Kim Se-chin, member of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, briefed reporters on the results of the meeting.

According to him, at the meeting today our side presented a freshly-packaged draft agreement of the working committee for sending a unified team to the Sixth World Youth Soccer Championships, largely accepting with concession the draft agreement that had been brought forward by the South side at the first meeting. The two sides had a discussion on the basis of it and reached a full agreement.

The selection and training of the players was the first topic of debate.

The players are to be selected through discussion on the basis of player-selecting games.

It was agreed to hold the games between mixed teams composed of an equal number of players from the North and the South and have the match in Seoul on May 4 and then in Pyongyang on May 8.

It was also agreed that each team travelling between the North and the South for the player-selecting games should be composed of 25 players, 5 members of the Working Committee, 15 support members and 25 reporters, 70 all told, and the scenes and sound of live TV transmission should be provided by the host side in the system demanded by the other side.

In the discussion of the timetable of the allround training of the unified team players and its course, the sides agreed to hold allround training in Pyongyang from May 10 to 14 and in Seoul from May 16 to 20 and the unified team should leave Seoul on May 21 and, after arriving in France, have training for familiarizing themselves to the overseas conditions from May 22 to 26 and participate in the Toulon International Youth Soccer Tournament scheduled from May 27 to June 4 in France and, after gaining experiences, arrive in Portugal on June 5.

And it was agreed that the personnel who will travel between the North and the South for the allround training should consist of 9 players, 7 officials, 15 support members and 5 reporters from each side.

And the host side will provide conveniences for the activities of the teams and officials at the time of the player-selecting games and allround training.

Then the meeting discussed the composition and management of the team.

It was agreed that the team should be composed of 18 players and 14 officials and 30 support members, 62 all told, and that the head of the team should be selected from the South side and the deputy head from the North side.

In the discussion of the dates, venues and concrete ways of the ceremonies of forming and dissolving the team, the sides agreed to have the inaugural ceremony in Seoul right after the allround training and the dissolving ceremony in Pyongyang back home and it was agreed that their way should be decided by the host side and the details be discussed and decided upon through discussions between the sides.

Besides, the sides discussed the matters of the travel between the North and the South of the players and personnel concerned regarding the formation and participation of the team, of the uniform of the team and its participation in the games and other matters and reached a full agreement on them.

The agreement was signed by Kim Se-chin, North side's co-chairman of the Working Committee of the Unified Football Team, on behalf of our side, and O Wan-kon, South side's co-chairman, on behalf of the South side, authorized repectively by the chairmen of the North and South football associations.

World Soccer Groups Informed of Unified Team

SK2702122591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1111 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The DPRK Football Association sent a letter by mail and telex to the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), notifying them that the North and the South have agreed to participate as a unified team in the Sixth World Youth Soccer Championships scheduled from June 14 in Portugal.

Notifying the FIFA and the AFC that the North and the South will participate in the championships as a unified team, the letter describes the name, flag and song of the team and the colour of its sportswear.

The letter expresses the hope that the FIFA and the AFC will render positive cooperation in the activities of the unified team of the North and the South of Korea.

KCNA Reports Unified Table Tennis Team Meeting

SK2702115991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1113 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Panmunjom February 27 (KCNA)—The second meeting of the Working Committee to discuss practical matters for the participation of a unified team of the North and the South in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships was held behind closed doors in the South side's portion of Panmunjom today.

The sides reached a full consensus on the matters discussed at the meeting.

After the meeting, co-chairman of our side Chang Ung briefed reporters on the results of the meeting.

According to him, the sides discussed at the meeting inaugural and disbandment ceremonies of the unified team, the confirmation of the players, etc. on which they had failed to reach an agreement at the first meeting.

Our side reiterated our proposal for holding the inaugural and disbandment ceremonies of the unified team on the spot of the championships in view of the prevailing situation.

The South side turned it down and proposed not to hold the ceremonies, to which our side agreed.

The list of the names of the players who will participate in the games was confirmed.

It was agreed that the players would arrive in Japan on March 5.

The sides also agreed on the concrete designs of the flag, uniform and sportswear of the team and the song of the team, recorded tape and musical notes.

Authorized by the chairmen of the table tennis associations of the two sides, co-chairman Chang Ung of our side and co-chairman Pak Song-in of the South side signed an agreement of the Working Committee for the unified team to the 41st World Table Tennis Championships and exchanged its copies.

According to the agreement outlined by our side's co-chairman, an equal number of players will be selected from the North and the South six men and five women.

The head of the team will come from the North and the general manager from the South.

WPK Delegation Continues Visit to Japan

Meets DSPJ Figures

SK2702022491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1539 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—Head of the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) and deputy to the SPA, on a visit to Japan, met Takashi Yonezawa, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Socialist Party of Japan (DSPJ) and member of the House of Representatives, here today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of the WPK delegation Kim Yang-gon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK, and vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Association of Korea, and some suite members.

Present there were members of the House of Representatives—Atsushi Kanda, chairman of the parliamentary measure committee of the DSPJ; Kansei Nagano, chairman of the policy deliberation council; Eisei Ito, director of the general affairs department; Eiichi Nagasume, chairman of the international affairs committee; Tadamasa Kotaira, central executive member of the DSPJ; and Akihisa Terasaki, deputy director of the international department who is member of the House of Councillors; Shohei Umezawa, director of the education and propaganda department; and Sachiko Taguchi, chief secretary of the international department.

The head of the WPK delegation said the North-South high-level talks were suspended entirely because of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities. Such military exercises beclouding the atmosphere of North-South dialogue with the sound of gunfiring must be stopped, he remarked.

The side of the Democratic Socialist Party of Japan told that it would recommend the United States and the South Korean side to stop the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, saying it, too, opposes nuclear weapons that threaten peace.

The talk took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Welcomed by Dietmen's League

SK2702022891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1545 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—A meeting for welcoming the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea was held here today under the sponsorship of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship.

Flags of the two countries were hanging on the background of the platform of the meeting hall.

The meeting was attended by Hajime Ishii, chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, acting president of the foreign affairs research council of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and member of the House of Representatives, Makoto Tanabe, supreme advisor to the Dietmen's League, vice-chairman of the central executive committee of the Social-Democratic Party of Japan and member of the House of Representatives, and other Japanese Dietmen and prominent figures, nearly 100 all told.

At the meeting Yuzuru Shimazaki, director of the secretariat of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship and Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives, explained the newly organised Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship. Then followed speeches.

Hajime Ishii in his speech said that 20 years have passed since the inauguration of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, but it was not until today that the relations between the two countries entered a stage of favorable development.

He said that he as the chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship would make energetic endeavours to promote the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations and accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea in the future.

Head of the WPK delegation Kim Yong-sun congratulated the prominent figures upon their election as officials of the supra- partisan league and expressed thanks for having organized a meeting in welcome of the WPK delegation under the sponsorship of the league.

The election of officials of the league at a time when the matter of normalising DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations has been put on the order of the day is of weighty significance, he said. He expressed the belief that the league would play a big role for the development of the relations between the two countries.

Chuji Kuno, former chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, said that the relations between Japan and Korea recently entered into a new phase of development after the lapse of arduous days, and expressed thanks to the political figures who have striven for it.

He stressed that Korea is one and that the Dietmen's league should strive hard to realise the establishment of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations and the reunification of Korea as early as possible and thus contribute to the cause of world peace.

Tokuma Utsunomiya, adviser to the Dietmen's league and independent member of the House of Councillors, paid his tribute to the WPK delegation on a visit to Japan and called for working together for the establishment of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations.

Holds Banquet at Conclusion of Visit

SK2702071391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0547 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] arranged a banquet at the Korean hall in Tokyo this evening on the conclusion of its Japan visit. Invited there were Shin Kanemaru, former deputy prime minister and member of the House of Representatives, Hajime Ishii, chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, Yoichi Tani, director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa development agency, and many officials of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. Also present on invitation were Takako Doi, chairperson of the Central Executive Committee of the Social-Democratic Party [SDP], member of the House of Representatives Makoto Tanabe and member of the House of Councillors Wataru Kubo who are vice-chairmen, Tsuruo Yamaguchi, general secretary, and many officials of the SDP. Tokuma Utsunomiya, independent member of the House of Councillors, dietmen from different political parties of Japan and prominent figures of financial, academic, press, cultural and other circles were invited. Present there were the members of the WPK delegation led by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, and suite members and reporters accompanying it. Chairman Han Tok-su of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), First Vice-Chairman Yi Chin-kyu, Vice-Chairmen Pak Chae-ro, So Man-sul, Ho Chong-man, O Hyong-chin, Pae Pyong-tu and Chon Yon-sik, the director of the General Secretariat and department directors were on hand. Head of the WPK delegation Kim Yong-sun made a speech at the banquet. Noting that during the visit the delegation met with President [as received] Toshiki Kaifu, General Secretary Ichiro Ozawa, Mr. Shin Kanemaru and other leading officials of the LDP, Chairperson Takako Doi, Mr. Makoto Tanabe and Mr Wataru Kubo and other senior officials of the SDP, and leaders of the Komei Party, the United Social Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialist Party and had broad contacts with prominent figures of political, public and financial circles of Japan and had very useful talks with them in a friendly atmosphere, he said: At the contacts and talks we shared the view that Korea and Japan should become "near and friendly countries" from "near yet far-away countries." An agreement on the expansion of exchange between parties was adopted between the WPK and LDP at the end of the visit, he noted, and stated: Our delegation is satisfied with the meetings, talks and cordial hospitality accorded by the Japanese side. Then chairperson Takako Doi spoke at the banquet. Noting that the WPK delegation visited Japan and had energetic conversations with President [as received] Toshiki Kaifu and officials concerned of the government, representatives of parties and groupings as well as officials of all segments and made a great contribution to the strengthening of Japan-Korea amity and friendship and to the progress of the normalisation of diplomatic relations, she expressed the belief that this success would bear a fine fruit without fail. Pointing out that the activities of the delegation left deep impressions on the Japanese people, she said: We renew our determination to work for peace in Asia and the world, for the happiness of mankind, for the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations and for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, not basing ourselves on a narrowminded stand for Japan only, for Korea only. Shin Kanemaru spoke next. He said: The WPK delegation, through its visit to Japan, energetically had talks with officials of broad strata and played a big role in the acceleration of normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations. I will strive for a successful progress of the Japan-DPRK inter-governmental negotiation in the future. He wholeheartedly wished the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and His Excellency Kim Chong-il good health and long life. The participants in the banquet toasted the further development of friendly relations between the WPK and the LDP and SDP of Japan, the good health and long life of the great leader President Kim Il-song, the good health and long life of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong- il, the good health and long life of respected President [as received] Toshiki Kaifu of the LDP and respected Chairperson Takako Doi of the SDP Central Executive Committee. The banquet proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Attends Social Democratic Breakfast

SK2702111391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA Correspondent)—The Committee for Measures on Korean Affairs of the Japan Social-Democratic Party arranged a breakfast for the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] here today.

Invited to it were the members of the WPK delegation headed by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK central committee, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, suite members and reporters accompanying it.

Present there were Wataru Kubo, vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Social-Democratic Party of Japan and chairman of the Committee for Measures on Korean Affairs of the party; Sadao Yamahana, deputy general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the party and vice-chairman of the Committee for Measures on Korean Affairs of the party, and the vice-chairmen and the chief secretary of the Committee for Measures on Korean Affairs of the party and other officials concerned.

Chairman Wataru Kubo and head of the delegation Kim Yong-sun made speeches at the breakfast.

The breakfast proceeded in a comradely and friendly atmosphere.

Signs Agreement With Social Democrats

SK2702113791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—An agreement on expanding exchanges between the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP] was signed in Tokyo on February 27. Present at the signing ceremony on our side were Kim Yong-sun, head of the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, deputy head of the delegation Choe Mun-son and members of the delegation Won Tong-ku, Kim Yang-kon, Choe Hak-nae, Choe Hyon-tok, Yi Chol-sin, Nam Sun-hui and Kim Chong-hyong and suite members. Present on the opposite side were General Secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the JSDP Tsuruo Yamaguchi, Deputy General Secretary Sadao Yamahana, director of the people's movement department of the JSDP Hajime Fukada, and other officials concerned. The agreement reads: The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea visited Japan from February 20 to 27, 1991 at the invitation of the Japan Social-Democratic Party. During the visit, the two parties exchanged views on their internal and external activities and reached a consensus of views on further broadening exchanges between them in the future, too. Considering that the expansion of exchanges between the two parties will be conducive to the development of the relations of good neighbour-hood and friendship between the peoples of Japan and Korea and to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world, the WPK and JSDP agree as follows: 1. That the two parties shall strive to actively promote exchange and visit in political, economic, cultural and other sectors and deepen mutual understanding and cooperation between the two peoples in order to more dynamically develop the friendly relations between the two parties forged by each other's protracted efforts. 2. That the two parties shall cooperate with each other in a series of internal and external activities on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the publication of the "joint declaration on the creation of denuclearized, peace zone in Northeast Asia" which was adopted between the two parties, and strive to sponsor international conferences, etc. suited to its objective. 3. That the two parties shall promote mutual exchange of different delegations including party delevations, party friendship visiting groups, local party delegations, women and youth teams and actively cooperate in exchange in sports, cultural and art fields between the two countries.

Attends Farewell Luncheon

SK2702122991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—The Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP] gave a farewell luncheon for the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] in Tokyo today.

Present on invitation were members of the WPK delegation headed by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, suite members and reporters accompanying it.

Attending there were Chairwoman Takako Doi, Vice-Chairman Wataru Kubo, General Secretary Tsuruo Yamaguchi of the JSDP Executive Central Committee and other officials concerned.

In her address, Chairwoman Takako Doi warmly congratulated the WPK delegation on its great success in its visit to Japan and called for making joint efforts in the future to improve the Japan-DPRK relation and realize the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

She said that the JSDP would harden its stand of refraining from disturbing the Korean people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and further strive to strengthen the friendly relations between the two peoples. She expressed deep respects to President Kim Il-song for his excellent gift and asked the head of the delegation to convey her gift and heartfelt warm greetings to him.

Head of the delegation Kim Yong-sun made a speech.

The luncheon was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Yong-sun Grants Interview

SK2702114391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], on a visit to Japan at the head of a WPK delegation, called a press conference here today.

Present at the conference were many newspaper, news agency and radio reporters of Japan.

They raised a series of questions on the results of the WPK delegation's visit to Japan and the matter of normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

The head of the WPK delegation outlined the results of the delegation's visit to Japan and expressed the belief that the DPRK-Japan relations would develop favorably.

Elaborating on the situation of the Korean Peninsula, he fully exposed the war exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets such as the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged with the mobilisation of huge forces and sophisticated means of war, timing to coincide with the grave war in the Gulf region.

A critical situation in which a war may break out any time is prevailing on the Korean Peninsula due to their hysteric war exercises, he said, and stressed:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], issued an order to the entire units and members of the armed forces to take a position of combat mobilisation in face of the obtaining situation on the Korean Peninsula.

A communique on the order of the supreme commander of the KPA was distributed as a document to the reporters.

Kanemaru Gift for Kim Il-song

SK2702060691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—The great leader President Kim Il-song was presented with a gift by Shin Kanemaru, former Japanese deputy prime minister and member of the House of Representatives.

The gift was handed here today to Kim Yong-sun who is heading a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea on a visit to Japan by Hajime Ishii, acting president of the foreign affairs research council of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and member of the House of Representatives.

Kanemaru Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK2702045791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by Shin Kanemaru, former deputy prime minister of Japan. The gift was handed here today to Kim Yong-sun who is leading a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea on a visit to Japan by Hajime Ishii, acting president of the Foreign Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and member of the House of Representatives.

Tanabe Gift for Kim Il-song

SK2702122691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—Makoto Tanabe, vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party, handed in Tokyo today to Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Commmittee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], on a visit to Japan at the head of the WPK delegation, a gift for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. The vice-chairman recalled that President Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, received him when he visited the DPRK in September last year and at the time of the celebrations of the 45th founding anniversary of the WPK. He said he would always remember this honour. Paying tribute to Comrade Kim Il-song, he asked the head of the delegation to convey his wholehearted warm greetings and gift to him. Present at the gift-presentation ceremony were the members of the WPK delegation. Members of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party Hajime Fukada, director of the people's movement department, and Taneaki Tanami, director of the information department, were on hand.

Tanabe Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK2702115591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—Makoto Tanabe, vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party, handed in Tokyo today to Kim Yong- sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], leading a WPK delegation to Japan, a gift for the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The vice-chairman paid homage to Secretary Kim Chong-il who showed deep solicitude for the adoption of the three-party joint declaration and sent the WPK delegation to Japan and took meticulous care so that it could achieve success. He said he was overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude to Secretary Kim Chong-il for his precious gift. He asked the head of the WPK delegation to convey his own gift carrying his deep thanks and sincere warm greetings to dear Secretary Kim Chon- il. Present at the gift-presentation ceremony were the members of the WPK delegation. Members of the C.E.C [Central Executive Committee] of the JSDP Hajime Fukada, director of the people's movement department, and Taneaki Tanami, director of the information department, were on hand.

Doi Gift for Kim Il-song

*SK2702120391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1036 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social- Democratic Party, today handed to head of the visiting delegation of the WPK [Worker's Party of Korea] Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, a gift for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kubo Gift for Kim Il-song

*SK2702122891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1038 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—A gift to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], from Wataru Kubo, vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP], was handed today to Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C., the WPK, on a visit to Japan at the head of a WPK delegation, by Hajime Fukada, member of the Central Executive Committee and director of the People's Movement Department of the JSDP.

Yamaguchi Gift for Kim Il-song

*SK2702123891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1040 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—A gift to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], from Tsuruo Yamaguchi, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP], was handed today to Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C., the WPK, on a visit to Japan at the head of a WPK delegation, by Hajime Fukada, member of the Central Executive Committee and director of the People's Movement Department of the JSDP.

Fukada Gift for Kim Chong-il

*SK2702114891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1037 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—Hajime Fukada, member of the Central Executive Committee and director of the People's Movement Department of the Japan Social-Democratic Party, today handed to head of the visiting delegation of the WPK [Worker's Party of Korea] Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, a gift for the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Concludes Visit, Departs 27 Feb

*SK2702123191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1050 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Tokyo February 27 (KCNA correspondent)—The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] headed by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) and deputy to the SPA, left here for the socialist motherland this afternoon by a Korean plane after successfully winding up its itinerary to Japan.

Suite members and reporters accompanying it left together with it.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Central Executive Committee [C.E.C.] of the Japan Social-Democratic Party (JSDP), member of the House of Representatives Makoto Tanabe and member of the House of Councillors Wataru Kubo who are vice-chairmen of the C.E.C., the JSDP, member of the House of Representatives Tsuruo Yamaguchi, general secretary of the JSDP, and members of the Central Executive Committee of the JSDP and officials concerned.

Liberal democratic members of the House of Representatives Shin Kanemaru, former deputy prime minister, and Hajime Ishii, acting president of the Foreign Affairs Research Council of the Party and chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship were also present.

First vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) Yi Chin-kyu and vice-chairmen of Chongnyon Pak Chae-no, So Man-sol, Ho Chong-man and Pae Pyong-tu, the director of the general secretariat and department directors of Chongnyon sent it off.

A large crowd of Chongnyon functionaries and Koreans in Japan bade farewell to the delegation with kindred feelings carrying flags of the DPRK in their hands, shouting at the top of their voices "Long live the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song!" and "Long live the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il!"

Returns to Pyongyang

*SK2702114591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1046 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Kim Yong-sun, member and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, which visited Japan from February 20 on the invitation of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social- Democratic Party of Japan [JSDP], left Tokyo aboard a DPRK's plane and returned here by a direct flight this afternoon.

The suite and reporters accompanying it also returned.

The delegation was met at the airport by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary, Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a department, of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, and other officials concerned.

The delegation visited Japan when the inter-governmental full-dress talks had begun for the normalisation of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan. It went round Tokyo, Osaka and other places, met with leading officials of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social-democratic Party and prominent political, financial and public figures of Japan and broadly exchanged views on a series of matters of mutual concern.

During the visit agreements on developing exchange and cooperation between the WPK and LDP and between the WPK and the JSDP were signed.

Dietmen's League Friendship Body Holds Election

*SK2702063091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0541 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—A general meeting was held here today to elect officials of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship. Present there were Hajime Ishii, acting president of the Foreign Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and member of the House of Representatives, Makoto Tanabe, vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social- Democratic Party and member of the House of Representatives, and nearly 100 other dietmen and prominent public figures of Japan. The meeting elected officials of the league. Former deputy prime minister and Liberal Democratic member of the House of Representatives Shin Kanemaru and vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party and Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Makoto Tanabe were elected supreme advisors, Liberal Democratic member of the House of Representatives Masayoshi Ito, Komei member of the House of Representatives Chunya Yano, Democratic Socialist member of the House of Representatives Eiichi Nagasue and independent member of the House of Councillors Tokuma Utsunomiya advisors, Liberal Democratic member of the House of Representatives Hajime Ishii chairman, Liberal Democratic member of the House of Representatives Yoichi Tani acting chairman, Liberal Democratic member of the House of Representatives Masayoshi Dakamura, Social-Democratic member of the House of Councillors Wataru Kubo and Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Kogen Nosaka, Komei member of the House of Representatives Kazuo Torii, communist member of the House of Representatives Iwao Deramae, Democratic Socialist member of the House of Representatives Atsushi Kanda and United Scial Democratic member of the House of Councillors Hideo Den vice-chairmen, Social- Democratic member of the House of Representatives Yuzuru Shimazaki secretary general. 9 permanent directors, 26 directors and 4 auditors were also elected.

Paper Denounces Arrest of Dissidents in South

*SK2502072191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0543 GMT 25 Feb 91*

["High-handed Suppression"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 25 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique arrested Rev. Hong Kun-su of the Hyangrin Church in Seoul on Feb. 20 for the reason that he had participated in the formation of the Preparatory Committee of the South side's headquarters of the "Pan-Korean Alliance for Reunification" (Pomminnyon) in January, calling for reunification, and explained and praised the chuche idea and the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo in a midnight forum of the KBS [as received] in 1988. Branding this fascist suppression as a hideous fascist violence putting down and trampling underfoot the elementary democratic rights of humanity, the reunification movement of the South Korean people and even their freedom of debate on reunification, a news analyst of MINJU CHOSON Sunday says: It is a never-to-be-condoned anti-national, anti-reunification criminal act for the No Tae-u ruling group to charge Rev. Hong Kun-su with a crime and it is a high-handed barbarous act which can be seen only in a medieaval dark society. Nothing is more important than the reunification of the country for our nation today. It is only too natural for a Korean, whether he lives in the North or the South or overseas, to struggle for national reunification. The South Korean authorities' arrest of a churchman who made reasonable speeches for national reunification by invoking the "National Security Law", the anti-reunification fascist law, clearly shows how desperately they are running about to dampen the ever-growing sentiments for reunification among the South Korean people. They must look squarely at the trend of the times, stop the reckless repressive row at once and set free immediately the illegally arrested Rev. Hong Kun-su, coed Yim Su-kyong, the "flower of reunification", and all the visitors to the North.

Daily Views Kim Chong-il Work on Chuche

SK2002000191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1457 GMT 19 Feb 91

["Modelling Whole Society on Chuche Idea Is Great Programme To Carry Forward and Accomplish Cause of Socialism and Communism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an article to the anniversary of the publication of the work on some immediate tasks of party ideological work for modelling the whole society on the chuche idea by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il on February 19, 1974.

In the work Comrade Kim Chong-il has set the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea as the supreme programme of the Workers' Party of Korea and clarified the tasks and ways to this end in an all-round way.

The work elucidates the essence and requirements of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea and highly important guidelines of fundamental significance in the party ideological work and accomplishing the cause of communism, such as the question of intensifying monolithic ideological and revolutionary education among the party members and working people, the question of pressing ahead with the propaganda an agitation for grand socialist construction, and the question of eliminating the obsolete style of formalism in the party ideological work and bringing about a new turn.

For the greatness, originality and truth of its ideas and theories the publication of the work is of great significance in the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of the working class, the cause of socialism and communism and in the life of our people and it was a great event that opened a new higher phase in the development of our party and revolution, the article stresses.

Referring to the significance of the programme of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea, the author of the article says:

Its significance lies, above all, in that it indicates a scientific landmark along which to accomplish the cause of socialism and communism.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Our party's programme of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is a great programme for the building of communism. It enables us to take the ideological and material fortresses of communism with success by transforming men, society and nature in accordance with the chuche idea and fully realize independence for the working masses".

It further says:

In the work Comrade Kim Chong-il formulated the revolutionary ideas of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as a system of ideology, theory and methodology of chuche and indicated the truth that the communist society toward which we are advancing is a society which is based on the chuche idea and in which the idea has been fully applied and, in order to build communism, the whole society should be imbued with the chuche idea.

Another significance is that it furnishes a sure guarantee of carrying forward and accomplishing to the end the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great Comrade Kim Il-song, upholding the banner of his revolutionary idea.

With the advancement of the idea of patterning the whole society after the chuche idea, the theoretical and practical matters of carrying forward and accomplishing the revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader have been solved on a scientific basis and the cause of socialism and communism in our country is being carried forward and accomplished successfully generation after generation along the road paved by the great leader. This is one of the most brilliant exploits performed by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the course of leading the revolutionary cause of chuche to a shining victory.

Another significance is that it made it possible to immensely strengthen the driving force of the Korean revolution by achieving singlehearted unity of the entire people under the banner of the chuche idea.

It is as our party has powerfully organised and led the march toward modelling the whole society on the chuche idea that the cause of socialism and communism has been pushed forward with a new vitality and constant progress and achievements have been made in the building of the party and the state.

The ideological and purposeful unity and cohesion of the whole party has been consolidated more firmly as a result of the powerful acceleration of the work of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea with main emphasis laid on the establishment of the monolithic ideological system of the party.

Central People's Committee Awards Reporters

SK2302100091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] The DPRK Central People's Committee issued a decree on awarding the title of DPRK people's reporter to Comrade Yi Yong-hak, editorial writer of the publishing house of the Workers' Party of Korea, and to Comrade Kim Yong-su, chief of the publishing house of the working people's organizations. They were awarded because they have long worked at publishing while upholding the leadership of the party, have armed the party members and the working people with the chuche idea by writing and editing many revolutionary articles and books, and have greatly contributed to inspiring them to carry out the party's policy.

Coal Production at Kaechon District 'Picking Up'

SK1802151291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 18 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—Production is picking up at the Kaechon District Coal Mining Complex, a big anthracite production base of Korea. The Choyang and Kaechon coal mines are the pace-setters in carrying out the daily quotas much higher than last year.

The coal deposits in the Kaechon District is estimated at over 700 million tons. Deposits enough for scores of years' mining at the rate of 5 million tons annually has already been surveyed and secured.

Belonging to the complex are eight big coal mines including Choyang, Pongchon, Kaechon and Sillip Coal mines and ten odd factories, stations and prospecting corps including a concrete prop factory, a factory of accessories of coal mining equipment and a coal mine transport station.

The complex has systematically increased production by reinforcing pit walls with concrete and actively introducing large equipment.

The coal output last year was 25 times and the gross industrial output value 195 times as against the 1954 figures.

High-quality smokeless coal produced in the district finds its way to foreign markets. Its export shot up 4.7 times last year as against 1976.

Work continues to increase the coal production capacity.

A new coal mine with a capacity of hundreds of thousands of tons is being developed and the modernization of equipment and reinforcement of pits with concrete are being accelerated.

The recent completion of the Tokchon-Kaechon power transmission line has opened a prospect for the increase of coal output in the district.

Komdok Mining Complex Tops Daily Production Goals

SK1902153791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—The Komdok Mining Complex, a leading nonferrous metal ore producer of the country, has topped the daily production goal of lead and zinc for this year set 40 percent higher than the peak year.

This means a 50 percent gain over the average daily output of January.

Entering February, the miners there are carrying out their daily plans at 110 percent in basic tunnelling, 122.3 percent in preparatory tunnelling, 111 percent in mining, 113.9 percent in ore transport and more than 111 percent in dressing on an average.

Thus, some 100 production units had fulfilled their February plans or plans for the first quarter of this year as of February 15.

Attaching great importance to the production of lead and zinc at this complex, Korea is showing greater state and social concern for it this year.

Some ten commissions and ministries under the administration council and more than 60 factories and enterprises are preferentially supplying equipment and materials needed for the production of lead and zinc in the Komdok District.

South Korea

UN Action Requested on Atomic Energy Agreement

SK2602083391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0808 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea announced Tuesday that it has sent U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar an official letter calling for North Korea to sign the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] nuclear safeguards agreement and has asked him to circulate it to member nations and the Security Council paper.

According to a Foreign Ministry announcement, the letter strongly calls for North Korea to fulfill the obligations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to voluntarily remove this stumbling-block for the progress of inter-Korean reconciliation and confidence-building by signing the safeguards agreement as soon as possible.

"Our government wants to draw attention to the fact that North Korea has not so far carried out the obligation of signing the IAEA nuclear safeguards agreement even though five years have passed since it joined NPT in December 1985," Ministry spokesman Chong Ui-yong said.

NPT member nations are obliged to sign the agreement within 18 months of joining.

The letter expressed serious concern about the possibility of North Korea developing nuclear weapons, and warned that North Korea's attempts to link its refusal to sign the agreement with political issues and to justify its position might endanger both international nuclear nonproliferation and the security of Northeast Asia.

"The suggestion we are making in the letter is for the United Nations to cope with North Korea's recent preposterous insistence on glossing over its objection to joining the nuclear safeguards agreement," a senior government official said.

North Korea claimed in a letter to the Security Council on Nov. 21 last year that its refusal to sign the agreement was not because of a dispute with IAEA but because of differences with the United States, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The letter can be seen as a counterattack against North Korea's recent demand for simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities in both Koreas.

The United States, Japan, Canada, Australia and Poland submitted appeals Friday to Perez de Cuellar calling for North Korea to sign the nuclear safeguards agreement. Neither Korea is a member of the United Nations.

IAEA Asks North To Sign Safeguards Accord

SK2702092291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0850 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—Sixteen of the 35 governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) called on North Korea to sign the IAEA's nuclear safeguards agreement during a board meeting Tuesday in Vienna, according to the South Korean Foreign Ministry Wednesday.

North Korea responded as usual, saying it would not sign the accord until the United States had promised not to launch a preemptive nuclear attack, the Ministry quoted Yi Chang-chun, South Korean ambassador to Austria, as reporting.

Attending the meeting with observer status, Yi said North Korea used the nuclear issue for political purposes and the IAEA governors will meet in June to decide whether to punish it for not siging the treaty, under which nuclear facilities must be opened to international inspection.

South, North Reiterate UN Entry Positions

SK2702032491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea demanded again Wednesday that North Korea join the United Nations this year, simultaneously but separately, and give up its "unreasonable and unrealistic" argument for shared membership.

In a statement after a North Korean aide-memoire was circulated to the U.N. Security Council in New York, the Foreign Ministry said here that the North's failure to answer the South's demand would result in an effort by Seoul for unilateral U.N. membership.

"North Korea is threatening that unilateral U.N. membership would provoke unpredictable events on the Korean Peninsula, but such an attitude runs counter to our efforts on the membership issue and the majority of U.N.-member nations," it said.

In an aide-memoire dated Feb. 20, Pak Kil-yon, chief of North Korean observer mission to the United Nations, warned that unilateral membership would strain inter-Korean relations "to the extremes" and it would be best for the two Koreas "to enter the United Nations under a single state-name after reunification through confederation."

"But if it is on condition that the North and the South enter the United Nations with a single seat, it will have no objection to holding United Nations membership even before reunification," Pak said.

Saying U.N. membership can be fairly settled only by agreement between South and North Korea, Pak said he could not tell what events would strike Korea if the South won unilateral membership.

"No one can predict what sort of events may happen on the Korean Peninsula if the 'unilateral United Nations membership' of South Korea is forcibly admitted when the political and military confrontation between the North and the South grows more acute than ever before owing to the 'Team Spirit '91' joint military exercises being staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities," he said.

Planes Begin Flying War Supplies Into Gulf

SK2602050991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korean transport planes flew their first missions in support of the allied forces in the Persian Gulf Tuesday, the Defense Ministry said.

Two of the five C-130 Hercules transports will fly logistics missions from al-'Ayn in the United Arab Emirates to the Saudi city of Dhahran nine times on Tuesday, a ministry official said.

The number of flights will rise in accordance with the progress of the ground war, he said.

The Korean medical team in al-Nu'airiyah, Saudi Arabia, treated 25 people Monday—nine members of the multinational forces, two Iraqis and four Saudi civilians.

Medical, Transport Teams May Remain in Gulf

SK2602101191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0940 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's military medical and air transport teams, currently stationed in Saudi Arabia, may move to Kuwait after the Gulf war to help an expected U.N. supervisory committee maintain peace in the area, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said Tuesday.

The defense chief also said in a meeting with reporters that additional military aid will be extended if there are requests from the allies but that there are no such plans at present.

Touching on the fate of the Korean fighter program, a multibillion U.S. dollar military aircraft deal, Yi said his

Ministry will announce its decision by mid-March after a full review of Air Force needs, project viability and budget constraints, he said.

Commenting on recent North Korean moves, the defense chief accused Pyongyang of heightening military preparations.

"Civilian drills in Pyongyang and other cities have become bigger and more frequent, and the entire military has entered an alarm phase under the guise of the Gulf war and Team Spirit," the minister said.

Activities of Medical Mission in Gulf Noted

SK2602015291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] The Defense Ministry said all the 154-member medical team and 160-member Air Force transport team "are well and safe" as of yesterday, the second day of a ground war in the Gulf.

A ministry spokesman said the Air Force transport unit, composed of five C-130 planes and 160 noncombatants, is to start full-fledged missions today under close consultation with the multinational forces.

He said the medical team and transport unit have finished preparations for a ground war, adding that U.S. Marines will protect the medical team in case of emergency.

The military medical team has treated 611 people as of yesterday, the ministry said.

The 611 include 442 Saudi Arabians, 45 Iraqis and 124 soldiers of the allied forces.

The military medical team has been serving in the Saudi Arabian city of al- Nu'ayriyah, some 120km south of Saudi-Kuwait border, since late January.

Editorial Urges End to War in Persian Gulf

SK2602081291 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 26 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "It Is Time for the United States To Abide by the UN Security Council Resolutions"]

[Text] As the war in the Gulf escalates into a full-scale ground campaign, the objective that the United States seeks to achieve in this war has become clearer. The United States, which, after dismissing the Soviet peace proposal, has forced Iraq to make a choice between surrender and a ground war in the Middle East and leaving the United Nations no room for intervention, went into a full-scale ground campaign immediately after the deadline of its ultimatum had passed. Thus, it reveals its intent to end the war on its own and to take the lead completely in the postwar handling of the situation in the Middle East. In the meantime, the United Nations Security Council, which was instrumental in giving the multinational forces, including the United States, an excuse to go to war with Iraq, is now a mere spectator to what is happening, without even being able to discuss the peace proposal worked out by the Soviet Union. Even if the United States keeps advancing toward Baghdad along the Tigris River after occupying Basra in Iraq, the logistical city and a strategically important point to the rear of the Iraqi troops invading Kuwait, there is nothing much the United Nations Security Council can do about it.

After the end of the Cold War, the United Nations was able to restore its authority and functions required to play limited roles in settling international feuds that threaten world peace and order, thanks to the cooperation of the United States and the Soviet Union. It clamped joint restrictions on the aggressors through the Security Council resolutions. Even before the war broke out in the Gulf, the UN Security Council took the lead in imposing sanctions against Iraq with a total of 12 resolutions, in which Iraq was called upon to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally and to declare its annexation of Kuwait null and void. The UN took upon itself all the necessary authority to use every possible means, including economic sanctions, if Iraq failed to meet the deadline for the withdrawal of troops from Kuwait. At a very important moment in the war in the Gulf, shortly before the start of the ground campaign, the Soviet Union offered a peace proposal that seemed to meet most of the conditions stated in UN Resolution No. 660, although the proposal was somewhat suggestive of what the Soviet Union pursues. However, the UN Security Council could not even bring the proposal to the table for discussion because the United States gave Iraq its ultimatum. And when the ground war began, it went into recess, declaring that it "has nothing to do."

It is clear that what the United States seeks to achieve in the war is not confined to the "liberation of Kuwait," which has been officially and repeatedly stated by the United States since the beginning of the Gulf war. What is more, with the battles fought not only in Kuwait, but also on Iraqi territory since the beginning of the ground campaign, it remains to be seen where the ground forces of the multinational forces will stop in their advance. With targets for bombing in Iraq carefully selected as early as 5 months before the war, the United States has been systematically destroying Iraqi military and economic facilities. It is generally assumed that the United States aims to break the Husayn regime and to neutralize Iraq, politically and economically. So, there is very little hope that the United States may accept a ceasefire or any proposals for ending the war until its objectives are realized.

Nonetheless, the UN's mediation effort for peace in the Middle East should continue in order to avoid the enormous bloodshed expected in the ground battles and to have the complicated and sensitive postwar order in the region involving the interests of many countries established without any trouble. If the United Nations, which provided an excuse for the United States to start the war, cannot bring it to an end, it should now call on the United States to faithfully abide by the substance of the UN Resolution No. 678 which called on Iraq to pull out of

Kuwait and that if Iraq fails to meet those conditions, the UN will take necessary means to enforce its resolutions.

Postwar Rehabilitation of Middle East Discussed

SK2602050591 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 26 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Scramble To Win Contracts in the Gulf"]

[Text] The war in the Gulf has entered the final stage. The ground campaign is expected to come to an end within a week at the earliest. On a par with this prospect, another form of war in the Gulf, an economic war, is increasingly coming into the open and becoming heated. The day when the noisy engines of bulldozers replaces the deafening sound of the guns in the Middle East battlefields in Kuwait, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia is close at hand. According to its plan on active participation in the postwar rehabilitation of the Middle East, the government has sent to the region a fact-finding team headed by an assistant vice foreign minister. It is quite speedy. Korea not only benefited from what is known as "the construction boom in the Middle East," but it has also stayed on in its participation in the construction there. So it is natural for Korea to actively try to participate in the postwar rehabilitation projects. It seems that Korea is going to have another chance to benefit from the construction boom in the Middle East in addition to the Middle East boom during the oil shock in the seventies. In order to make the most of this opportunity, business circles and the government should remember the lesson they have learned from the boom of the seventies and avoid repeating the trial-and-error methods.

In its nature, the postwar reconstruction of the Middle East this time around is different from the previous Middle East construction boom. Kuwait and Iraq are countries that will need the most postwar rehabilitation. However, with its overseas assets frozen and oil wells destroyed, Iraq, which is certain to suffer defeat in the war, will have no money to invest in the postwar rehabilitation. Iraq may have no choice but to rely on its former Western foes such as the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan to secure money needed for its postwar rehabilitation. Even so, the West will not help Iraq rebuild as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power. Iraq's postwar rehabilitation hinges largely on Husayn's political fate. Even if the postwar reconstruction of Iraq starts with cooperation enlisted from the West after Husayn is ousted from power, Iraq will still have no funds to finance the rehabilitation. It is likely, therefore, that Iraq will have to rely on long-term plans for development financed by foreign investors.

This being the case, we will have to put greater stress on participating in the reconstruction of Kuwait, at least for the time being. With its overseas assets and investments estimated at $120 billion, Kuwait is a truly rich country. As a result of Iraq's systematic destruction of Kuwait's oil wells, oil refinery facilities, key industries, ports and airport facilities, and large buildings, the Kuwaiti territory is virtually in a shambles. Kuwait estimates that it will need $60 billion for its postwar rehabilitation and five years to complete the plan. Already the countries participating in the coalition forces, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, have entered a fierce scramble over this $60 billion gold mine. The money needed to restore the oil wells alone is estimated at $25 billion.

It remains to be seen how great a share Korea can get. Rumor has it that the Kuwaiti Government will employ two sets of standards in selecting who will take part in its postwar rehabilitation. The first is to take into consideration the degree of contribution the countries of the multinational forces have made to restoring sovereignty to the country, thus weighing every country's merit and making appropriate awards. Nasir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, said that his country "will grant the lion's share to U.S. business firms as a reward for the sacrifices made by the United States. Of the 181 contracts worth $365 million that the Kuwaiti Government has signed with foreign countries as of 11 February, 130 of those worth $270 million went to U.S. companies. Even President Bush has come out into the open to help U.S. business firms. The second standard that Iraq is expected to employ is the widely practiced open bidding system of selecting the lowest bidders despite the need to reward countries that have made sacrifices.

The magazine NEWSWEEK said that the United States has an edge over other countries in high-tech fields, but such countries as South Korea will be more competitive in the field of construction. Regardless of whether they try to win subcontracts from the business firms of such advanced countries as the United States or try to take part in open bids on their own, Korean business firms should try to avoid collective failure as a result of excessive competition among themselves. "Discipline in trying to take part in the postwar rehabilitation" is the only way for them to survive.

Reportage on Participation in Gulf Reconstruction

SK2602022091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will endeavor to form partnerships between Korean and foreign construction companies from allied countries to undertake reconstruction contracts following the Gulf war, Construction Minister Yi Chin-sol said in a Gulf special measures meeting Monday.

The government would seek participation in the projects through collaboration or subcontracts, he said. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister No Chae-pong.

The United States and other major participants in the coalition will win the lion's share of the rebuilding contracts, Yi said, so his ministry will also seek direct participation through positive negotiations with the governments of Kuwait and other Middle East countries.

The government estimates contracts at 100 billion U.S. dollars to 150 billion dollars. Rebuilding Kuwait alone could cost over 50 billion dollars.

The Trade and Industry Ministry may allow officials of general trading companies evacuated from the region to return at an early date after the cessation of fighting, Trade and Industry Minister Yi Bong-so said.

The Ministry will play act as a mediator for Korean trading companies to prevent excessive competition among them if the Gulf states propose barter trade with oil.

To meet the flurry of orders for commodities from the Middle East and European Community after the war, the government will take measures to support manufacturing companies, he said.

The government expects exports of daily necessities and durables such as cars and electronics to increase sharply.

North, South Name Joint Table Tennis Team

SK2702084691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea named a joint table tennis team Wednesday that includes world No. 3 Yi Pun-hui of North Korea [sentence as received].

The players, 12 men and 10 women, will compete in the 41st World Table Tennis Championship this April in Chiba, Japan.

The selections were made in the second round of inter-Korean working-level talks in the truce village of Panmunjom, at which it was agreed each side would have the same number of players.

Yu Nam-kyu of South Korea, fifth in the International Table Tennis Federation rankings, and Yi Un-sang of North Korea, 11th, are on the men's team.

Hyon Chong-hwa of South Korea, ranked fifth, and Yu Sun-pok of North Korea, 17th, are on the women's team.

It was agreed to dispense with inaugural and disbanding ceremonies to prevent controversy. Seoul wanted the ceremonies held on the Korean Peninsula and Pyongyang insisted they be in Japan.

South and North Korea also agreed Feb. 12 to form a joint team for the Sixth World Youth Soccer championships in Portugal in June.

Officials May Discuss Sports Exchanges in Japan

SK2702083091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0615 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Sapporo, Japan, Feb. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—High-ranking sports officials from South and North Korea are likely to meet in Sapporo, Japan, during next week's Winter Universiad to discuss exchanges, which have shown signs of flourishing with agreements on the formation of single Korean teams to the world table tennis and soccer championships.

Sources say South Korean Vice Sports Minister Kim Yong-kyun is expected to have an unofficial meeting with Pak Myong-chol, first vice chairman of North Korea's State Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee, around the opening ceremony March 2.

An official on the South Korean squad denies any plan for Kim to meet Pak but says there is a possibility for a meeting to discuss exchanges of winter sports events.

Kim is scheduled to arrive Friday for the Saturday opening ceremony. Pak is on the 78-member North Korean delegation.

A Kim-Pak meeting would be significant because Pak is the top working-level sports official in North Korea.

Kim was involved arranging South-North games during the 1990 Dynasty Cup International Soccer Tournament in Beijing last year.

The head of the South Korean squad says an exchange of winter sports is desirable as the 1995 Winter Asian Games will be in Samjiyon, North Korea.

Kim Sang-kyun, chef de mission, made the remark in a press conference upon arrival Monday.

Another South Korean official says ice hockey is the most promising sport for an exchange because the two sides are at similar stages.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Invited to DPRK

SK2302084891 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 Feb 91 p 2

[By Yi Nak-yon in Tokyo]

[Text] North Korean President Kim Il-song on 22 February invited former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who is currently chairman of the Japanese-Korean Parliamentarians League, to visit North Korea, and he accepted.

Secretary Kim Yong-sun, now on a visit to Japan, visited former Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita this morning, and delivered Kim Il-song's message at a meeting with him that lasted about 40 minutes.

If former Prime Minister Takeshita visits North Korea, it will cause a subtle stir between the ROK and Japan, because he is chairman of the Japanese-Korean Parliamentarians League.

Korean Investment District in China Discussed

SK2702055891 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 26 Feb 91 p 6

[Text] To expand investment advances of domestic business groups to China, the government is working out plans for the epochal expansion of ROK-China economic cooperation, including the establishment of a large-scale "ROK investment district" within China.

It has been learned through the ROK trade mission in Beijing, that the government is going to propose officially to the Chinese side the establishment of a "ROK investment district."

On 25 February, a government official said "the issue of concluding an intergovernmental agreement on economic cooperation, including trade, investment insurance, and prevention of double taxation, is being discussed between the ROK and Chinese Governments. Since the Chinese side has responded affirmatively to this issue, a great possibility exists that this agreement can be concluded at an early date."

The official noted that "in addition to conclusion of an agreement on economic cooperation, we will propose the establishment of a ROK investment district within China."

The official pointed out that "although the Chinese side is hoping for active investment advances into China by ROK business groups for expansion of China's domestic employment, our business groups are reluctant to make such advances due to poor investment conditions within China." He said that "in the event that the ROK investment district is established, the risks, which may be caused by individual advances, could be minimized and, thanks to common use of indirect social investment facilities including ports and transport facilities, conditions for investment advances could be greatly improved."

This official revealed that "when the ROK and Chinese Governments reach an agreement to establish an ROK investment district, the proposed sites would be Tianjin or Qingdao area in Shandong Peninsula, which are geographically close to Inchon and Kunsan ports and whose basic industrial facilities including electricity, industrial waters, roads, and ports are relatively good."

In the event that the Chinese side accepts the proposal for establishment of a ROK investment district, the government is planning to develop the lands, which Korea Land Development Corporation will lease from China's local government on a long-term basis, into an exclusive industrial complex for Korean business enterprises.

The number of investment advances into China by Korean business groups as of last October is 54, and their contracts amount to $80 million. However, it is expected that when a "ROK investment district" is established, the investment advances into China of domestic enterprises will increase rapidly.

Japan, U.S. Accused of Dumping in Korean Market

SK2602042191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—The Customs Administration announced Tuesday that Asahi Chemical of Japan and Dupont and Hoechst Celanese of the United States have been found dumping polyacethal resins on the South Korean market at a rate ranging from 20.6 percent to 107.6 percent.

Asahi sells its audio-video density polyacethal at 1.662 U.S. dollars a kilogram, barely half the normal 3.45 dollars, for a dumping rate of 107.6 percent, the administration said.

Middle-density 4010 resin, used for bumpers, has a dumping rate of 31 percent, and low-density 7010, used for computer bodies , 47.5 percent.

Dupont's dumping rate was 87.3 percent for middle-density 500, 92.2 percent for low-density 900 and 58.2 percent for audio-video density resin, it said.

Hoechst Celanese's rate was 43.5 percent for middle-density m90, 34.7 percent for low-density m270 and 20.6 percent for audio-video density resins.

Acting on a suit by the Korea Engineering Plastics Co. of the Hyosung Business Group complaining of dumping by the three firms last May, the administration conducted its scrutiny on the basis of answers supplied by the three companies and other investigation materials.

Australian Convicted on Security Violation Freed

SK2602052091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—An Australian dentist of Korean ancestry, convicted in September 1989 for arranging a visit to North Korea via West Germany in violation of the National Security Law, was deported Monday upon being released on parole.

Kim Chin-yop, 28, was convicted of meeting a key member of the radical group Chondaehyop (the National Alliance of Student Representatives) in May 1989 to help student activist Yim Su-kyong visit North Korea a month later.

Kim, working as a medical missionary at a hospital in Pusan, Korea's second largest city, was sentenced Sept. 4 to 18 months in prison.

Kim was among 399 people granted parole monday to mark the third anniversary of No Tae-u's inauguration as president.

Kim will be unable to return under the immigration law that says a foreigner found guilty of Korean law will not be permitted to enter the nation.

Anti-Kim Chong-il Feeling in North Reported

SK2602092791 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 26 Feb 91 p 13

[The "North Korean News" column]

[Text] With the beginning of this month, disputes between the party and the military in connection with Kim Chong-il's inheritance of power surfaced one after another. It was also learned that distrust and complaints about Kim Chong-il by the general public are being expressed openly, thus attracting the people's attention. It is known that Kim Chong-il's charisma falls short of his father's. The North Korean people believe that Kim Chong-il's misrule is responsibe for their accumulated economic difficulties and hardship. Thus, they openly express their complaints.

According to North Korean students who defected to South Korea while studying abroad, North Korean residents unhesitatingly make anti-Kim Chong-il remarks even in public. This is a phenomenon which was not seen in the past under the system of surveillance in North Korea where anti-Kim remarks and acts were considered an anti-state crime.

Chon Chol-u, (25), who defected to South Korea in December 1989 while studying in Dresden Engineering College in East Germany, said that "when I went to Pyongyang during summer vacation in 1987, I noted that the people still respected Kim Il-song but a number of people spoke ill of Kim Chong-il."

He also said that "in the past, it was unthinkable to speak ill of Kim Chong-il even in a gathering with friends. But my friends abused Kim Chong-il, saying that "he is luxury-loving man, and changed women every night, talking about his team of joy, team of happiness and so forth." He added that he was surprised to hear from the sons of key party officials that 'Kim Chong-il is wicked [mottoeda].'

Nam Myong-chol, (26), who defected to the South in April of last year while studying in Leningrad University, the Soviet Union, said that "the people noted that their situation began to get worse in 1972 when Kim Chong-il came to the front." Nam added that the North Korean people claim that their worsened situation resulted from Kim Chong-il's order to build many monuments after putting forward the so-called 70-day, 100-day and 200-day struggle, and they denounced Kim, who did not experience any hardship, after having spoiled the national economy.

It has been learned that anti-Kim Chong-il feelings were particularly high among the North Korean students studying in the Soviet Union and East Europe and that they spoke ill of him by adding abusive language to his name while playing cards.

North Korea is drastically instituting loyalty to Kim Chong-il recently through the study of ideology and dissemination of songs. It appears that such acts are designed to prevent anti-Kim sentiments from being expanded and openly revealed among the residents.

Party Requests Approval To Visit North

SK2702030891 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 24 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] The Party of the Masses on 23 February decided to accept the 6 February invitation of the Workers Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party, and the Chondoist Chongu Party of North Korea to the South Korean political parties. It has submitted a request to the Board of Unification for the latter's approval to visit North Korea.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Calls For Quick Iraqi Withdrawal

BK2702065791 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Malaysia has expressed the hope that Iraq will withdraw its forces from Kuwait as soon as possible to bring an end to the Gulf war. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said there is no need for Iraq to claim that it will have victory because it will only hurt its enemies [as received]. On the continued allied attack, the prime minister said it is because Iraq did not surrender and is only withdrawing. He said it looks like America is very much interested in ensuring that Saddam no longer becomes a leader and Iraq is destroyed. The prime minister was responding to reporters' questions after opening the antiquarian gallery in Kuala Lumpur. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Japan; East Asia Trade Grouping

BK2502104191 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0907 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia strongly urged Japan to join the proposed East Asian Economic Grouping [EAEG] and to continue its investments within this region to further strengthen economic links which already exist.

Deputy Finance Minister Abdul Ghani Othman, in making the call here Monday, said so far the response towards Malaysia's efforts to form the grouping had been encouraging. "But Japan is, of course, hedging itself."

"Hopefully, this idea would be adopted as an ASEAN initiative soon, and from there we would proceed to the East Asian forum," he added when opening a one-day seminar on "the European Community and the world economy."

Ghani said: "It (the proposed EAEG) is nothing prescriptive at the moment. We propose to proceed on a step-by-step basis."

The EAEG was proposed by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed as a move towards wider cooperation among East Asian countries for fear that failure to reach a new world trade agreement would result in the emergence of self-seeking trade blocs and of a European single market after 1992 which would turn the EC into a fortress Europe.

"The EAEG is not an effort to create another bloc but is meant to strengthen our collective voice," Ghani said. "It is meant to strengthen the region's collective voice as well as to harness its resources and potential for greater economic and trade cooperation for the benefit of our people."

For the private sector to counter fears of possible adverse effects of a protected market after 1992, Abdul Ghani urged local investors to plan strategically for Europe 1992 and take advantage of the government's incentives to invest abroad and to plan for expanding their business operations in the EC and its neighbouring countries, particularly in fields that have strong linkages wth the Malaysian economy.

After 1992, the EC would be the biggest economic area of its kind, with a large market without frontiers of 320 million people, and a combined gross national product of U.S. $4.5 trillion, he added.

"In the meantime, resources from within the government, the private sector and the universities need to be mobilised to keep track of the developments in Europe, study the new standards and rulings in EC, develop a business strategy to have continued access to the EC market and the new markets in Eastern Europe" he said.

"We believe we should not wait for things to happen or events to overtake us but we should develop our capability in setting up industries in other countries, gaining access to new technologies and benefiting from the potential markets of these countries."

EC Voices Opinion on East Asian Economic Group

BK2202152491 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The European Community [EC] has expressed its support for Malaysia's proposal to establish an East Asian economic group [EAEG] provided it will not lead to trade restrictions. The support was voiced by EC Commissioner Emiliano Fossati at the ninth meeting of the ASEAN-EC Joint Cooperation Committee in Kuala Lumpur. Fossati led a 24-member EC delegation to the four-day meeting.

According to him, the EC welcomes a regional group but opposes trade restrictions. The community also regards the group with full interest and will follow its development. The EAEG, which was inspired by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir last year, aims at enhancing economic cooperation among countries in the region. All ASEAN members have expressed support for the establishment of the EAEG which is to cover the majority of East Asian countries.

Former Communists Allowed To Create New Party

BK2202151691 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Former members of the Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] can establish a political party if the process follows the country's laws and constitution. Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Mohamed Nor, the country's deputy inspector general for police, said that before they did so, the government should first study the Constitution and the kind of party to be established and the members of its committee as stipulated in the Societies Act. However, the CPM will continue to be banned. The same case applies to any political parties espousing communism. Tan Sri Abdul Rahim was speaking to reporters after presenting allowances to widows and policemen who had had Sri Pahlawan Gagah Perkasa medals conferred upon them.

According to him, the process of establishing a new party by former CPM members will be thoroughly studied. They were already briefed of all this when the agreement on the laying down of arms by the CPM was signed in 1989.

Cambodia

National Assembly To Hold Extraordinary Session

Announcement on Settlement Report

BK2602134191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Feb 91

["Announcement"]

[Text] The National Assembly's standing committee wishes to inform the public that the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia [SOC] will shortly convene an extraordinary session to listen to a report to be presented by the Council of Ministers on the significance of negotiations on a political settlement of the Cambodian problem and to discuss and define a principled stance to be adhered to by the SOC.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 26 February 1991.

Standing Committee Meets on Issues

BK2602125591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The National Assembly cabinet wishes to inform the public that at 0730 on 26 February at the National Assembly cabinet, the standing committee of the National Assembly held a working meeting under the chairmanship of Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly, to examine a number of issues to be presented to the upcoming extraordinary session of the National Assembly.

The meeting was conducted with success in an atmosphere of unity and high sense of responsibility for the interest of the people and the motherland.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 26 February 1991.

Khmer Rouge Still Getting PRC-Made Weapons

OW2602153791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1522 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Beijing, Feb. 26 KYODO—The Khmer Rouge guerrillas are continuing to receive Chinese-made weapons despite a pledge by Beijing that it had suspended arms shipments, Japan's charge d'affaires to Cambodia said here Tuesday.

Tadashi Ikeda said at a press conference that Xu Dunxin, China's assistant foreign minister, informed him Monday that the Cambodian resistance faction is continuing to obtain Chinese-made arms via the Thai Government.

China has said it suspended supplies of weapons to the Khmer Rouge, militarily the strongest among the tripartite resistance coalition, in September last year.

Ikeda, who is also minister at the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok, said he also met with Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk during his stay in Beijing.

The Japanese diplomat said he is visiting China in an effort to achieve a breakthrough in the 12-year conflict.

Military Activities in Northwest Provinces

BK2302092191 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1119 GMT 22 Feb 91

["New Crimes Committed by the Tripartite Coalition Against the Cambodian People"]

[Summary] Phnom Penh 22 Feb (SPK)—Early this month, the Polpotists committed new crimes against the Cambodian people, particularly in the province of Battambang. They fired many artillery shells and rockets on residential areas of the provincial seat.

According to JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY, China has decided to rearm the Khmer Rouge who have launched attacks against positions of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces along Route 10 linking the provincial seat to Pailin and "pounded the city from the southwest causing serious damages to civilian buildings, including monasteries, houses, and administrative buildings. About 100 structures, including a market, were burned and 20 people were killed while 52 others were wounded."

"Earlier, on 4 February, the Polpotists, Sonsannians, and Sihanoukists fired over a thousand shells on Phnum Srok district seat in Banteay Meanchey Province. Five people were killed and three others wounded. Over 10 hectares of paddy field were burned." According to the chairman of the people's committee in the district, "the local armed forces mounted a counterattack killing 20 enemy soldiers on the spot and wounding 40 others; destroying a tank; and seizing two weapons."

According to the commander of the Battambang provincial armed forces, "on 18 February, the provincial combatants intercepted enemy elements infiltrating into the southern part of Cheng Meanchey Commune in Banan District, and killed 25; 14 weapons were seized along with 35 tonnes of ammunition."

Reportage on Battles in Week Ending 11 February

BK2302105991 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0459 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 23—In the week to February 11, the militiamen and armed forces of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province annihilated 15 heads of enemy troops from Polpotist divisions E-55 and F-912 while they sneaked in a number of villages in Puok and Angkor Chum Districts for looting food and property of the local inhabitant. Moreover, the government also seized a B-40.5 rocket launcher, four rifles, and a walkie-talkie.

Meanwhile, the armed forces of Chong Kal District, same province, captured one Sihanoukist and wounded another, and seized one gun during the enemy conducted reconnaissance mission at an eastern stretch of Road 68.

In a another incident, the militiamen of Sot Nikom District, in cooperation with the provincial armed forces, discovered one enemy hide-out at the northern part of Kombor-ar, destroying eight shelters and seizing 200 cases of cartridges, two tons of kitchen salt, 500 kg of rice, and a quantity of arms gears.

Also during the same period, the local authorities of Siem Reap Province received four former Polpotists, bringing along three assorted guns.

Last year, the security forces of Kratie Province (some 200 km northeast of Phnom Penh) wiped out 30 enemy soldiers, wounded 21, and captured seven others, and seized four B-40 rocket launchers, eight fire-arms, and a quantity of other war means.

Leading was the security forces of the district of Prek Prasap by killing 10 enemy soldiers and injuring eight others. Moreover, the security forces unmasked a number of underground agents of Polpotist forces and other factions.

Greetings to Bulgarian Leaders on National Day

BK2702085791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0403 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 27 Feb (SPK)—On the occasion of the 113th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke (national day of the Republic of Bulgaria), Heng Samrin, chairman of the Council of State; and Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, sent warm congratulations to their Bulgarian counterparts.

In his message to Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic of Bulgaria, Chairman Heng Samrin writes: "The Cambodian people have followed with attention and sympathy the democratic changes taking place in Bulgaria and hope that these would bring happiness and prosperity to the Bulgarian people.

"I am convinced that the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our two people continue to be strengthened in the interest of our two peoples."

Heng Samrin profoundly thanks the Bulgarian leader for his support for the Cambodian people's just cause and wishes him good health and success in carrying out his noble task.

In the message Hun Sen addressed to Dimitur Popov, Bulgarian prime minister, it is said:

"The State of Cambodia's government has noted with satisfaction the remarkable changes which are being carried out by your government. I firmly believe that this new political, economic, and social direction respond to the goal aimed at by the Bulgarian Government.

"I am firmly convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries continue to further develop for the progress and well-being of our two people and for the cause of peace."

On the same occasion, Hor Namhong, Cambodian foreign minister, also sent a congratulatory message to his Bulgarian counterpart, Viktor Vulkov.

Sihanouk Rejects Phnom Penh Election Plan

BK2702052591 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] On 25 February, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Cambodian National Government and head of the Cambodian national resistance forces, issued a statement criticizing the election ploy launched by Vietnam and its lackey-puppets in Phnom Penh. The statement said:

The Phnom Penh regime set up by Vietnam has continued to stress its desire to hold the general elections in Cambodian in 1992.

Concerning this matter, in my capacity as head of the Cambodian national resistance forces, I would like to once again point out to all my compatriots and the international community the following:

1. The current Phnom Penh regime, that is the Chea Sim-Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime, was not born of the Cambodian people. It was propped up by Vietnam on 7 January 1979 and imposed upon Cambodia and the Cambodian people by the Vietnamese troops from then on. Therefore, the Phnom Penh regime which is the out-and-out lackey of the Hanoi authorities and represents no one in Cambodia except its boss—Vietnam—has no right whatsoever to hold a general or partial election in Cambodia whose results will only reflect Hanoi's wish to maintain and legalize the Vietnamese aggression in Cambodia.

2. To make the general election in Cambodia meaningful, before this election is held, Cambodia should first

be restored with real and total peace and full independence within Cambodia's 1969 borders. To enable Cambodia to regain total peace and full independence within Cambodia's recognized 1969 borders, ensuring territorial integrity, there must be a guarantee and the general elections must be supervised by the United Nations in accordance with the peace plan put forth by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the UN secretary general, His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar.

3. So long as the above-mentioned peace plan is not accepted and implemented in its entirety in Cambodia by all sides in the four Cambodian factions, the Cambodian National Govenment and the Cambodian national resistance forces headed by myself will not take part in the illegal elections to be organized by the traitors who have betrayed their own motherland, their own nation, and their own people, and who are the out-and-out lackeys of the Vietnamese colonialists and expansionists.

The Cambodian National Government and Cambodian national resistance forces will fully reject the outcome of the elections to be organized by these traitors of their own motherland.

The Cambodian National Government and Cambodian national resistance forces demand that the peace plan of the five UNSC permanent members be accepted and implemented in its entirety in Cambodia. Otherwise, the Cambodian National Government and the Cambodian national resistance forces, in line with their sacred duties, will carry on their national liberation struggle until Cambodia and the Cambodian people regain their sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity as in 1969.

Resistence Seizes Vietnamese-Made Weapons

BK2702072791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC] recently disclosed that NAIC combatants seized thousands of tonnes of military equipment and weapons, most of them produced by Vietnam, during military operations conducted early this year in a number of areas in northwest and western Cambodia.

Sources at the NAIC General Staff said that a large number of Vietnamese-made weapons, most of them rocket launchers and anti-tank mines, have been stamped with a Vietnamese label "GIAI PHONG" meaning "liberation." The sources also specified that these Vietnamese-made weapons were seized by NAIC troops from Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers in the 246th Division on the Tonle Sar battlefield in Samraong District, Banteay Meanchey Province. The sources also said that the weapons with a "Made in Vietnam" label are the first ones seized in the war in Cambodia. These types of weapons are usually produced by the Soviet Union.

Resistance Kills Enemy Personnel, Destroys Tanks

BK2402043591 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Feb 91

["Report on Attack Against the Vietnamese Enemies and Their Lackey Puppets on Battambang, Route 10-Sangke River Bank Battlefield"]

[Text] On 19 February, Vietnamese and lackey puppet leaders, including Pol Saroeun—chief of the General Staff of the Phnom Penh puppet regime—met in Battambang in compliance with orders from Hanoi. The Vietnamese and puppet leaders were to set up operational plans to retake liberated areas along Route 10 and on the banks of the Sangke River from our resistance forces.

Implementing the Hanoi authorities' scheme, the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets mapped out a number of combat plans.

I. Route 10 front:

A. On 20 February, the Vietnamese enemy troops attacked us from three directions in a bid to retake the liberated area west of Route 10. [Passage indistinct] 11 tanks and many pieces of cannons and multiple rocket launchers.

B. Second prong: Ground troops, seven tanks, and several pieces of cannons and multiple rocket launchers attacked us from Snoeng, Boeng Ampel, Route 10.

C. Third prong: We were attacked by four tanks and artillery pieces from Sdau.

After a day of battle, 47 enemy soldiers were killed and 52 others wounded as well as three tanks destroyed.

On 21 February, the Vietnamese enemies and puppets continued to launch offensives with tanks, cannons, and multiple rocket launchers against us from nine directions. After a full day of fighting, we killed 38 and wounded 72 enemy soldiers and destroyed two more tanks.

On 22 February, the Vietnamese enemies and puppets continued to strike us with tanks, cannons, and multiple rocket launchers from many directions. Following a clash of nearly a day, we killed 24 and wounded 38 enemy soldiers and destroyed two tanks.

During the three days of fighting on Route 10 battlefield between 20 and 22 February, we killed a total of 109 enemy soldiers and wounded 162 others, and we destroyed seven Vietnamese enemy T-54 tanks.

It is worth recalling that since the beginning of February, the Vietnamese enemies and their lackey puppets have marshalled both Vietnamese and Cambodian ground troops, tanks, and many pieces of cannons and multiple rocket launchers in an attempt to retake the liberated areas along Route 10. However, they have been attacked, routed, and decimated one after another. The fighting is going on at present.

II. Sangke River bank front: Since 20 February, the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets gathered many hundreds of their troops with tanks, cannons, and multiple rocket launchers from the Sangke River banks, Thippadei, Reang Kesei, Svay Cheat, and Moung for the purpose of retaking liberated areas. After three days of onslaught between 20 and 22 February, we killed 42 and wounded 37 enemy soldiers and destroyed two Soviet-made Vietnamese enemy T-54 tanks and a great deal of war materiel. The combat is still going on.

Indonesia

Representatives Urged To Begin Political Change

BK2702015691 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 20 Feb 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—A retired army general has urged the House of Representatives (DPR) to work for a change of the political elite in 1993.

"The nation needs new blood in 1993 and political parties should have the courage to initiate the change," former commander of the powerful Kopkamtib [Security and Order Restoration Command] security agency Sumitro told House members in a hearing here yesterday.

Sumitro said the time had come that political parties thought about a bottom-up concept of development.

The People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), which constitutes [as published] the DPR, is to elect a president in 1993 following general elections in 1992. The hearing discussed international politics in an effort to intensify the implementation of Indonesia's foreign policy.

In reply to a question from a House member, he said he agreed that corruption in the bureaucracy had reached an alarming state.

"Corruption has become part of the culture," he said quoting the late and former vice president Mohammad Hatta. The House member, Ipik Asmasubrata, has called on the government to eradicate corruption once and for all in a period of five years.

The hearing also heard views on current foreign affairs delivered by Yuwono Sudarsono, dean of Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Indonesia. [passage omitted]

PRC Mining Minister Discusses Energy Needs

BK2602110591 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0941 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Samarinda, Feb 26 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has given much attention to the results of Indonesia's efforts in coal and liquefied natural gas [LNG] development particularly in connection with PRC's demands for energy sources for its large industries, Chinese Minister of Mining Zhu Xun said here on Tuesday.

Zhu Xun asked about potentials and production capacity while he was at the coal industrial center of the Kaltim Prima Coal Company, 300 kilometer away from here.

PRC has not decided yet whether it would purchase coal from Indonesia but was still making a more profound study into the facilities of its own industries.

In the company of six officials the Minister Zhu Xun made a close observation of the details of open-pit system of coal mining.

Kaltim Prima Coal produced more than one million tons of coal last year for exports to several industrial countries including Taiwan, which has so far been the arch rival of the PRC.

The Chinese minister has also visited the natural liquefied gas plant in Bontang.

The LNG plant in Bontang exported more than 20 million barrels of LNG to Japan, Taiwan and Korea last year.

Some of the company officials would not be willing to say whether the Chinese would sign a purchase contract such as what the Japanese, Taiwanese and Koreans have done for 20 years.

'Just see the results of their meetings,' an official from the Badak coal mining plant said.

'Whatever amount of liquefied natural gas they may need we will be able to meet it,' he added.

Cambodian Refugees Land En Route to Canberra

BK2702050191 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 19 Feb 91 p 12

[Text] Jepara, BUANA—Thirty-five Cambodian refugees were stranded on Mondoliko Island, Ujungwatu Village, Keling District in Jepara at 1400 last Sunday [17 February]. They consist of eight women, 14 men, and 13 children below 6. Two of the women are pregnant.

They used a 14 meter-long 3.5 meter-wide and 1.5 meter-high boat equipped with two engines, Yanmar 56 HP and Mitsubishi 75 HP respectively. The boat was led by skipper Ly Phuce Dai (56), who was the only passenger who spoke English. They slept aboard the boat on Sunday night. Only five of them disembarked. They drew the attention of local residents and officials.

The local intelligence coordinating board immediately interfered to ascertain who they actually were. "We are investigating whether they are genuine refugees," Police Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Mohammad Komari, the Jepara police chief said.

If they are, they will get the proper assistance. If not, they will be treated in accordance with the law. "We have asked a bank to check whether some U.S. dollar notes they had spent were genuine," the police chief said.

According to Ly Phuce Dai, the boat left Cambodia in the wee hours of 21 January 1991 for Australia. It passed Singapore and Jakarta and was stranded in Jepara because it had run out of food and fuel.

According to Ly Phuce Dai, his group was made up of pro-Sihanouk and anticommunist refugees. They landed temporarily on Mondoliko Island to buy additional food and fuel. About 1,000 liters of fuel were needed, but they had to buy it on a retail basis.

Ly Phuce Dai bought 400 liters of fuel for U.S. $100 at one place and bought some more from other retailers. Speaking to BUANA on Monday through Keling District Chief Police Officer Maksum Ba who acted as a guide, he said that the group would leave Keling on Monday evening to continue their voyage to Canberra.

Laos

Front Chairman Addresses Meeting in Savannakhet

BK2602041791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] On the morning of 22 February, Phoumi Vongvichit, chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee, addressed delegates to the enlarged meeting of the LFNC Central Committee of five southern provinces at the Pho Kadouat municipal meeting hall in Savannakhet Province. The meeting was also attended by intellectuals, personages, and a large number of representatives of various mass organizations, various services attached to the Savannakhet provincial administration, production bases, state or privately owned business enterprises, and monks or novices in the province.

In his address, the chairman of the LFNC Central Committee assessed the achievements of the provincial front committees. He said: The front committees of each province and at each level have effectively performed their duties and have won satisfactory achievements in many fields. They have now achieved much more progress compared to what was acheived in the past. It is noteworthy that they have encouraged and guided the multiethnic people of all strata to fulfill the two strategic tasks of the party, in particular the four main tasks of the LFNC Central Committee. With the encouragement of the front committees, the people have harmoniously united and regarded the four main tasks as the tasks entrusted to them by the party and administrations. Many provinces have achieved numerous outstanding points in construction work, thus contributing to enabling the front's work to be smoothly and effectively fulfilled.

Phoumi Vongvichit also hailed the achievements recorded by the front committees of each level in carrying out the front's work in the recent past. He also called on all multiethnic compatriots to unite and join in translating into reality the line and plans for the subsequent years as already endorsed in a unanimous manner at this meeting.

The enlarged meeting of the five southern provinces was closed with success on the afternoon of the same day after three days of work. Since early February, the LFNC Central Committee has held a series of enlarged meetings in four main places throughout the country—the enlarged meeting of the six northern provinces in Sayaboury Province, the meeting of two northern provinces in Houa Phan Province, the meeting of four central provinces in Khammouane Province, and this meeting of five southern provinces in Savannakhet Province. At each meeting, Phoumi Vongvichit, chairman of the LFNC Central Committee, attended as guest of honor and delivered a speech to the delegates. During the meetings, Phoumi Vongvichit also visited various production bases and addressed local people in certain areas in the said provinces where the meetings were held, in particular in Paklai, Sam Neua, and Nong Bok Districts.

Sisavat Keobounphan Attends District Meeting

BK2502125091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] In order to help welcome the forthcoming Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and to prepare for holding a congress of cadres of Vientiane Municipality in the near future, a conference of cadres was opened in Chanthabouli District in Vientiane Municipality on 21 February. On 22 February, Sisavat Keobounphan also attended the meeting.

The conference of cadres attached to the party committee of this district studied and commented on the draft political report to be presented to the second congress of the district party committee, which will be convened in the near future to elect delegates to attend the conference of cadres of Vientiane Municipality.

After hearing the draft political report presented by Thongmi Phomvisai, secretary of the district party committee, 82 full-fledged party members and cadres in the district attending the conference made several comments on the report's contents in a firm manner, thus showing their fine tradition in daring to criticize certain weak points in the report so amendments could be made with a view to enhancing the party leadership role.

After the meeting voted to elect delegates to attend the forthcoming municipality-level conference of cadres, Sisavat Keobounphan, secretary of the party Central Committee and secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane Municipality, addressed the conference. First of all, he hailed the achievements and victories won by the district party committee in the past 5 years. He also gave advice to the cadres on how to resolve remaining problems pointed out at the meeting and discussed the party's guidelines during the period of vigorously effecting changes in our country in trying to allow the party leadership at the grass-roots level to effectively fulfill the motto: The party must lead, the state must manage, and the people must be the masters of their own destiny.

Philippines

'Extensive' Antigovernment Rally Held 27 Feb

HK2702111491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Various members of cause-oriented groups, including the New Nationalist Alliance [BAYAN] and the League of Filipino Students [LFS], are currently undertaking an extensive protest rally to oppose price hikes in commodities, IMF [International Monetary Fund] and World Bank [WB] intervention, and other issues against the administration. A group of rallyists gave protest speeches in Mendiola while arrests of some demonstrators were made in certain parts of Manila for staging demonstrations without the necessary permits. The protest rally will culminate in a program to be held between Camps Crame and Aguinaldo where all rally participants from different parts of Manila will converge.

Just as the leaders of the cause-oriented groups have promised, they are now starting their march from Mendiola, through Legarda and Santa Mesa going to Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue. A while ago, before they said good-bye to Western Police District officials in Mendiola, Senator Joseph Estrada gave the following speech:

[Begin Estrada recording in progress] ... that is what is being said now about democracy, that you be dictated to by the IMF-World Bank. The democracy they are talking about is that we just follow the dictates of the imperialists. And so this democracy goes down to... [end recording]

NDF Criticizes EDSA Anniversary Celebration

HK2702072791 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 27 Feb 91 p 2

[By Gloria Galuno]

[Text] As basic problems of Philippine society remain unsolved, there is no point in celebrating the anniversary of the EDSA [Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue] revolution.

This was stated yesterday by the National Democratic Front [NDF], a coalition of various organizations and parties promoting armed struggle against the government.

According to the NDF, President Aquino failed to fulfill the people's aspiration for economic recovery because of her imperialistic policies.

They are blaming the government for price hikes in oil and other commodities and for the retention of the U.S. military bases in the country which tramples on the sovereignty of the Filipinos.

The NDF said: "It is very easy for the Aquino government to surrender the national interest and integrity of the Filipino people in exchange of the United States' support so all of them can remain under the cudgels of the American imperialists." The NDF also revealed that several revolutionary governments have been set up in different parts of the country.

Aquino on 'Dwindling' Attendance at EDSA Rites

HK2702055191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0230 GMT 27 Feb 91

[By Tanny Rodriguez from Malacanang Information Service, in English]

[Text] President Aquino has stressed that the numbers of those who attended the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] rites was not the sole test of its success, nor of the extent to which the EDSA spirit has taken root in our lives. She issued this statement in response to statements by some observers that the dwindling number of those who participated in the rites was a sign of a declining support for her administration. The chief executive clarified that this was so since the organizers opted for simplicity in this year's commemoration program. Then, also, she added there were other meaningful activities that preceded the rites, such as the nine-day novena for peace and the Magkaisa [unity] exhibits, to mention a few.

She expressed confidence that since the occasion was televised, many of the citizens joined in spirit and in their prayers, even if not physically present in the said gathering. President Aquino belied some speculations to the names of Kabisig [partnership] men who she mentioned during the EDSA celebration will be among the candidates she will endorse for the 1992 elections. The president said such a speculation has neither substance nor basis. Some of those officials she mentioned include Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Natural Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran, and Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos.

The president said she clearly referred to these names simply among the officials doing the projects she wanted to encourage, and that time did not permit her to mention all the others such as she intends to mention them on future occasion. She stressed that there was no time for the occasion to talk about candidates during the rites. As we all know the president has said that it's too early to endorse her candidate for the 1992 elections because she has to concentrate in solving the economic problems confronting the country.

Presidential Aspirant Pimentel Reveals 1992 Plans

HK2702060591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Feb 91 pp 1, 18

[By Fred Lobo]

[Text] Sen Aquilino Pimentel Jr, chairman of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) [Pilipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength], said yesterday he will run for president in 1992 if drafted by his party to be its standard bearer.

Pimentel indicated that the PDP-Laban has asked him to run, "and I will not shirk from that responsibility when the time comes and when it is already allowed by law."

The senator from Cagayan de Oro City pointed out that his party decided in its last national council meeting to field a complete slate in the 1992 national elections following an overwhelming consensus among provincial, city and municipal party members who are scheduled to meet in April to formalize the plan in a national convention.

According to Pimentel, a frontrunner in a survey of presidential hopefuls, the PDP-Laban has kept its rank-and-file members, even after the transfer of several leaders to another political party in 1987.

On the U.S. bases issue, the senator said that an extension in the use of the American military facilities here may be justified only in terms of material benefits to the Pilipino people, adding that the issue should be kept "as an ace" of the Philippine panel.

"I'd like to see expanded trade with the U.S. I'd like to see a net reduction of our foreign debt. I'd like to see a thousand and one things defined between the U.S. and the Philippine government so that our country will benefit from a new treaty on these bases," he said.

"Pimentel said that ongoing negotiations for an extension of the stay of the U.S. bases should be kept as an ace in defining a new relationship with the U.S. government.

The important thing is whatever be the extension, seven years they say, there should be a quid pro quo to justify that," said Pimentel as he underscored the need to show the justification to the Filipino people for a new lease on the bases.

The senator also called for the entry of more foreign investors, saying he is supporting a policy to grant more equity to foreign investors for as long as it will be for the benefit of the Filipino people.

"We should also make sure that we need foreign investments. But they should bring in new money to be invested here, not that the greater part of their capital requirement will be borrowed from local sources," he added.

Endorsements

President Aquino said yesterday it's not yet time for political endorsements for the 1992 national elections.

Dousing cold water to speculations that she is already endorsing administration candidates for the 1992 polls, the President said that "such speculations have neither substance nor basis."

Speculations on presidential endorsements spread like wild fire after Mrs Aquino cited several Cabinet and local government officials for implementing relevant projects under the fast-track Kabisig [Linking of Arms] program during her speech at Monday's 5th anniversary celebration of the 1986 EDSA [Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue] People Power Revolution.

Among those she mentioned as performing well were Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Natural Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Bulacan Gov [Governor] Roberto Pagdanganan, and Negros Occidental Governor Daniel Lacson.

Political speculators said that her mentioning of their names appeared as indirect political endorsements for their candidacies in 1992.

However, in a press statement, Mrs Aquino said it is not so.

"I clearly referred to those named simply as among the officials doing the type of projects I want to encourage and time did not permit my mentioning all the others, such that I intend to mention them on future occasions," she said.

"I precisely said it was not the time nor the occasion to talk about candidates," she added.

During her EDSA speech, Mrs Aquino said that the people should start scrutinizing presidential aspirants and stand united in electing in 1992 the next president "who can help the people."

Nine Soldiers Killed in Abra Encounter

HK2702105091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Feb 91

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] Nine government soldiers, including a lieutenant, were killed and three others were seriously wounded in a bloody encounter with 200 communist terrorists in a barangay in Malibcong Town, Abra. According to a report sent by the Abra Philippine National Police [PNP] Command to PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno, the communist rebels were headed by Mario Maawang from Mengfi. Maawang's group encountered elements of Task Group Bravo, a joint team from the 1st and 4th Field Force Companies comprising 140 men headed by PNP Major Berido.

The report said that the encounter occurred in Barangay Bayabas, Malibcong at about 2230 [1430 GMT] two days ago. Killed in the two-hour encounter were 2d Lieutenant Noel Pontanio, Constable Second Class

[C2C] Jose Caoilan, Robert Recio, Jimmy Ayap, Rodante Galesa, Divino Cornejo, Tito Austo, Domingo de Guzman, and PNP Sergeant Bernal. Wounded were C2C Calixto Jimenez, Marlon Lipitan, and Nelson Yabes. The government troops also lost six high-powered firearms, an M-16 light machinegun [as heard], a URC 187 radio, and a copy of an operation requirement directive. The report also stated that the four PNP (Bulco) C105 helicopters and a Sikorsky that were supposed to give air support failed to do so because of strong winds. Many of the rebels were said to have been killed but their remains were taken away by their comrades.

Armed NPA Rebels Kidnap Cagayan Mayor 25 Feb

HK2602125591 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[By Jo Gonzalez of Radio Patrol No. 21]

[Text] Mayor Federico Galapia of Sanchez Mira Town, Cagayan was kidnapped with his family yesterday afternoon at 3:45, by at least 60 armed New People's Army [NPA] rebels, at Sitio Siyam- Siyam, Barangay Mabnang, Taglat.

Mayor Galapia's kidnapping was reported to the media at Camp Aguinaldo by Brigadier General Orlando Soriano, Philippine Army Fifth Infantry Division commander. General Soriano happened to visit Camp Aguinaldo's Public Information Office and mentioned the incident.

It was also gathered that Mayor Galapia's family, his wife and children, was released but the mayor remained in rebels' hands and is believed to have been taken to the general area of Kalinga Apayao, which is now the center of a police and military pursuit operation.

It was also reported that the NPA rebels used Mayor Galapia's car and other cars in their escape. General Soriano also said that Mayor Galapia's kidnapping was accidental because the rebels did not know Mayor Galapia was going to pass through their checkpoint.

According to General Soriano, a witness saw Mayor Galapia introduce himself as the mayor of Sanchez Mira, which prompted the rebels to kidnap him. He also disclosed that they already have some leads on the rebels' direction and location. The Philippine Army has already started its operation in Kalinga Apayao.

It was also gathered that the three-month offensive being extensively carried out in Cagayan, particularly in Kalinga Apayao, resulted in the death of not less than 42 NPA rebels. Four of these rebels were killed in an encounter at Marag Town.

Military Explains Arrests of 'Environmentalists'

HK2702061191 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 27 Feb 91 p 3

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] Military authorities in Palawan yesterday said they had "sufficient and substantial" evidence that would prove that some of the 15 environmental activists who were arrested in the island province were members of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Brigadier General Braulio Balbas, Western Command (Wescom) chief, said the military would prove the activists' "deep involvement" in the communist underground movement through the documents seized by military operatives in a safehouse early this month.

Environmentalists last Thursday deplored the warrantless mass arrest of the 15 last February 15 in Palawan by elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Wescom.

Lawyer Joselito Alisuag, chairman of the environmentalist group Haribon Foundation (Palawan Chapter), had disclosed that the military and police operatives cracked down and poised subversion charges on the 15, members of Haribon and two other cause oriented groups, the Task Force Detainees (TFD) and the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP), only a few days after the environmentalists reported an anomaly involving 500 missing kamagong [type of wood] logs which were supposed to be in the custody of the local Marine detachment.

"Right now," said Balbas, "we are preparing subversion charges against the members of the CPP who have been members also of the Haribon Foundation. And we have sufficient or substantial documents to show that they are hiding under the umbrella of the Haribon Foundation."

Appointments Commission Confirms Army Promotions

HK2602093391 Quezon City MALAYA in English 21 Feb 91 p 2

[By Romy Tangbawan]

[Text] The Commission on Appointments yesterday confirmed the promotion of two major generals and 13 brigadier generals in the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police [PNP].

Also confirmed were the appointment of Oscar S. Villadolid as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Philippines to Vatican.

The major generals were Gumersindo Yap, chief of the Southern Command and Philippine Army chief Lisandro Abadia.

Confirmed were the promotion to the grade of brigadier generals of Carlos Tanega, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]; Miguel Fontanilla, PNP regional commandedr for Bicol; Agerico Kagaoan, PNP Recom [Regional Command] 2 chief; Pablo Galvez, chief of the Army's 51st engineering brigade; Francisco Carreon; Rafael Maniago; Nicasio Ma. Custodio; Melecio Agtay Jr., AFP deputy chief of staff for training; Hermenegildo Agaab; Regino Lacson, AFP chief of staff for operations; Clemente Mariano, chief of the Army's 203rd infantry battalion; Renato Garcia; and Commodore Eduardo Tolentino.

The promotion of Brig. Gen. Norberto Lina, the PNP's highway patrol group commander, was deferred pending questions raised by some senators on the recent shooting to death of an architect and his driver on the suspicion that they were carnappers.

Also deferred were the appointment of retired General Mariano Baccay Jr, as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam; and the appointment [of] two Chiefs of Mission, Class II [Roman two] of Ma. Lourdes Ramiro-Lopez and Mukhtar M. Muallam.

Senate Discusssion on Bases Consultation Urged

HK2502070391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 25 Feb 91 p 3

[By Arthur Bariuad]

[Text] Diplomatic sources fear that the United States would intervene in the ratification process of a bases treaty by mobilizing its "influential network" in the country to push for a plebiscite that will determine the stand of the Filipino people on the bases question.

The apprehensions were expressed even as House Speaker Ramon V. Mitra yesterday asked the Senate to begin discussion on a 16-month- old House bill calling for a national consultation within 60 days from the signing of a new agreement on the American facilities in the country.

This emerged after a treaty proposed by Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus was last Friday met by firm resistance at the Senate when 10 senators said they would reject the package outright. The senators' respective positions on the proposed package were taken in an informal survey called for by Senate President Jovito Salonga and undertaken by Senator Wigberto Tanada, one of the 10 whom opposed the proposal.

The 10 solons of the 23-member Senate found unacceptable certain provisions of the treaty drafted by the Philippine bases panel allowing the U.S. continued operation of key installations in Clark Air Base like the Military Airlift Command (MAC) and the Crow Valley combat instrumentation range.

Sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said they perceived a "clandestine move" from the U.S. to call for a plebiscite. They said that during the fifth round of formal negotiations when the "real picture" became clearer, the U.S. panel was not "encouraged by the position of the Philippine panel."

A Filipino diplomat who asked not to be identified reasoned that "if the U.S. would not be satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations, especially on the duration of the phaseout period and the compensation package, they can always mobilize their men here." He refused to name names, but said that there are several of them in the House of Representatives.

Article XVIII, Section 25 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states: "After the expiration in 1991 of the Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America concerning military bases, foreign military bases, troops or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines, except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and when Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting state."

However, the informant refused to comment on whether the idea of calling for a plebiscite was ever floated by the U.S. panel during the negotiations. He added that while the Constitution provides for a referendum only after the treaty has been ratified, the move was a "consultatory" exercise aimed at "overturning the anti-bases stance of the Senate."

"If that happens and the people would vote in favor of the retention of the bases, how could the Senate overturn that," he argued.

Recent surveys by the Social Weather Station show a "marked percentage increase" in the number of those who favor the retention of the bases and a "marked percentage drop" in those who are against.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, chief Philippine bases negotiator, also expresses positive outlook on the ratification of the new accord although he admitted it would face rough sailing in the Senate.

The softening of the Philippine position during the series of formal talks which started in September last year has reportedly strengthened the senators' resolve to reject the new bases accord.

During the first round of the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks (PACT), Manglapus called for the immediate turnover of Clark and four smailer military installations after the 1947 RP [Republic of the Philippines]—U.S. Military Bases Agreement (MBA), as amended, terminates on Sept. 16, 1991.

At the resumption of the negotiations in January, Manglapus said that the Philippine stand for a five-year terminal phaseout was only applicable to Subic Naval Base and its position for the immedaite turnover of clark and the four back-up installations remained unchanged. The Philippine bases panel took the position that the negotiations for a new bases treaty would only involve Subic.

However, Manglapus during the fifth round of talks finally agreed to a seven-year transition not only of Subic but also of other installations at Clark. The Philippine panel also proposed a "point installation concept" wherein Clark would be divided into four "clusters"—one for exclusive U.S. use, one for joint use with the U.S.

taking the lead, one for joint use with the Philippines taking the lead and one for use as an exclusive Philippine zone.

The failure of both panels to agree on the two major issues—duration and compensation—during the fifth round led to the holding of "bilateral technical consultations" in Washington to thresh out their differences over the terms of the proposed treaty.

Manglapus offered to U.S. chief negotiators Richard Armitage a seven-year transition period attached to $400 million in annual "cash grants" and $425 million in non-budgetary items such as increased trade access and a debt-relief/reduction scheme.

The U.S. panel batted for its "preferred" phasedown formula—a 10-to 12-year transition period and a residual American military presence at the end of the term and "cash assistance" compensation.

Meanwhile, Mitra yesterday said it was "urgently necessary" that the Senate start considering the House measure calling for a national consultation on the bases issue.

House Bill No. 15113, authored by Representatives Antonio Cuenco (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Cebu), Leonardo Guerrero (LDP, Cavite), Narciso Monfort (LDP, Iloilo), Thelma Almario (LDP, Davao Oriental), Cornelio Maskarino (LP, Davao), Leonardo Fugoso (LP, Manila) Magdaleno Palacol (LDP, Laguna), Renato Dragon, (LDP, Cavite), and the members of the committee on suffrage and electoral reforms, was transmitted to the Senate on October 23, 1989.

The bill empowers the Commission on Elections Comelec to supervise and control the referendum, and orders information and education campaigns at barangay level preceding the vote. The bill also specifies that any view expressed in the course of debates and discussions on the issue shall not be admissible in evidence in subversion or libel cases.

In a letter of Senate President Jovito Salonga, Mitra said he believed the Senate's "open consideration" of HB 15113 to be "urgently necessary" in the light of news reports that a significant number of Senators are opposed to the terms of a new agreement outlined to them last week.

Mitra cited the Salonga survey, which asked the senators their stand on the new treaty as proposed by Manglapus.

Tanada, a leader of the Senate's anti-bases bloc, and nine other senators, namely, Heherson Alvarez, Agapito Aquino, Juan Ponce Enrile, Joseph Estrada, Teofisto Guingona Jr., Orlando Mercado, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Rene Saguisag and Victor Ziga rejected the proposed treaty, while three senators—Ernesto Herrera, Leticia Ramos Shahani and Mamintal Tamano—refused to take a stand on the issue, saying they needed more time to study the package.

Referendum Dismissed as 'Unconstitutional'

HK2602032891 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 91 p 9

[By Johanna Son, with Booma Cruz]

[Text] Senators yesterday dismissed as unconstitutional Speaker Ramon Mitra's prposal for Congress to call a referendum on a new bases agreement before it is submitted for ratification by the Senate.

Senate President Jovito Salonga dismissed Mitra's call as "premature" and questioned his assumption that there would indeed be a new bases treaty.

In the first place, Salonga said, the Philippines would not agree to a new treaty if it did not include a satisfactory compensation package.

"Premature pa yang sinasabi ni Speaker Mitra, kayat ako'y sasagot sa kanya [What Speaker Mitra proposes is premature and I will rebut it]," said Salonga who also promised to check on the status of the House bill that sets a referendum within 60 days from the signing of a new bases accord. The bill was transmitted to the Senate in October 1989 and has been pending before the Senate committee on constitutional amendments.

Sen. Rene Saguisag said Mitra's position "ignores" the Constitution. "How can we ignore the clear command of the Constitution? We cannot do exactly the opposite of what it provides simply because we may not like the anticipated results," Saguisag said.

A referendum, warned Sen. Wigberto Tanada, would "brush aside" the people's will when they ratified the Constitution which provides for the withdrawal of all U.S. military facilities by September this year.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Mitra's insistence on a referendum would undercut the Senate's treaty-ratifying power and "betrayed his lack of commitment to the Constitution."

"He (Mitra) has to change the Constitution first if he wants a referendum held ahead of the Senate's ratification," Pimentel said.

The senators pointed out that Article XVIII, Section 25 of the Constitution gives the Senate, as the treaty-ratifying body, the first crack at deciding on a bases accord, after which Congress may call for a referendum.

"We should not bend the clear provisions of the Constitution to suit our personal agenda," Salonga added in a statement.

The senators' view was echoed by former Sen. Arturo Tolentino, who said at the Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila coffee] forum that the referendum bill was just a "waste of money."

"It will not bind the Senate, so it's a waste of money...It will be an extra-legal exercise," said Tolentino.

In a letter dated Feb. 24, Mitra asked Salonga to speed up action on House Bill 15113 because, the Speaker said, the senators' opposition to a new treaty may well be "running ahead of public opinion."

Salonga said that while he agrees with Mitra's claim that the people should be consulted on major issues, the consultation on the bases issue could be done through other means except a referendum which, the Constitution provides, could be held after the ratification of the bases treaty.

After the House's passage of the referendum bill, Saguisag filed Senate Bill 1339 to ensure that any referendum on the bases should come after Senate action.

Saguisag, Salonga and Pimentel are among the nine senators who recently said they would reject the draft bases treaty outlined to them by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus.

The draft bases treaty, as outlined by the Foreign Office, seeks an $825-million compensation package in exchange for continued U.S. access to its bases here.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno [KMU—1 May Movement] also rejected Mitra's call, saying the proposed referendum was meant "to frustrate the anti-bases sentiment of the Filipino people."

"We are against any referendum on the bases," said KMU chairman Crispin Beltran.

Senate 'Cannot Approve' New Bases Treaty

HK2302084091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] The Senate cannot approve a new treaty extending the stay of the U.S. military bases in the country. This was stated by Senator Orly Mercado after Senate President Jovito Salonga conducted a survey among Senate members regarding their stand on the military bases. In an interview with Rey Langit, Mercado said that of those surveyed, 13 senators opposed a new extension for the military bases. Here is part of Senator Mercado's statement:

[Begin recording] There are about 13 who are opposed to the terms. If this is so, you cannot—or it is impossible—to get a two-thirds' votes in favor of the provisions of the new treaty as it is developing now. [end recording]

Student League Supports Referendum on Bases

HK2602033991 Quezon City MALAYA in English 26 Feb 91 p 6

[Text] Cebu City—The League of Concerned Students [LCS] yesterday expressed support for Speaker Ramon V. Mitra's call for national consultations on the U.S. bases even before the Senate ratifies or rejects the draft treaty.

The House chief appealed to his Senate counterpart to facilitate action on House Bill No. 15113 calling for a national referendum 60 days from the signing of the new treaty. The bill has been gathering dust at the Senate since October 23, 1989.

Rommel Cavada, LCS chairman, welcomed the Mitra initiative in the wake of reports from the Senate that at least 10 senators are set to reject the new RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. treaty. In a briefing held recently, the senators were advised that the RP panel was set to conclude a 7-year agreement covering the phaseout of U.S. military facilities in the country with an annual compensation package of $825 million.

"We are glad a person with Speaker Mitra's stature has finally risen to be heard," Cavada said. He lamented that his group has been lobbying with the Senate for public consultations on the bases, but their pleas have been unheeded.

The LCS also assailed the Senate for being insensitive to public opinion. "Every survey, including the latest done by the Social Weather Stations late last year, indicate that the majority favor bases retention under certain conditions," Cavada said.

Some senators were already announcing their vote of rejection even before a new treaty could be negotiated, he added.

"I join Speaker Mitra in challenging our good senators: You should welcome this opportunity to have your stand on the bases validated by public opinion," Cavada emphasized.

Sovereignty Asserted in U.S. Cooperation Treaty

HK2602033291 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Feb 91 p 10

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] The command and control relationships outlined under the Philippine-American Cooperation Treaty bestow Philippine Base Commanders with greater authority over the bases and, in some cases, even over U.S. forces.

Article XXV of the draft status of forces agreement between the U.S. and the Philippines provides that the bases "are under the command and control and administration of the Base Commanders (defined as the most senior Philippine military officers assigned to the respective bases and designated as such)."

Air Traffic

The Base Commander shall be "responsible for the security and administration of the base; maintenance of order at the base; command and control of Philippine military personnel and supervision of Philippine civilian government personnel working in the base;" and, significantly, "air traffic and port control."

In a previous interview with BUSINESS WORLD, Philippine Negotiator Defense undersecretary Feliciano Gacis, asserted: "We will decide who or what takes off, and who or what lands!"

To the extent that U.S. use of certain installations is concerned, the Base Commander "may delegate his authority in control, administration, and security of these installations to the U.S. Commander (who has authority over all U.S. forces assigned to or transient through the respective installation)."

The U.S. Commander is enjoined to "cooperate with the Base Commander in the maintenance of order within the Base and installations therein authorized for the use of U.S. forces."

Command Over Troops

Interestingly enough, while the U.S. has always resisted the idea of their forces being commanded by a non-American, Article XXV provides that "U.S. security forces (contributed for the internal security of the base) shall be under the operational direction and supervision of the Base Commander." Operational direction is defined as the "authority to prescribe security tasks of these U.S. forces and to coordinate the security operations of these forces with Philippine forces."

In an emergency, and the consequent launching of "security operations," the "U.S. security forces shall be under the operational control of the Base Commander until such time that the security operations are terminated."

Operational control for this purpose is defined as the authority "to order, control and supervise the employment, movement, manuever, application of firepower of these forces and their coordination with Philippine forces."

Full Access

Further, the Base Commander will enjoy full access to any area of the base including "installations authorized for the use of U.S. forces, to include those where cryptographic equipment and other classified equipment and material are kept."

The U.S. Commander is obliged to keep the Base Commander informed of these installations and where these materials are located.

"The Base Commander will respect the secrecy of the cryptographic and other classified equipment, material and activities connected therewith and shall not interfere with their activities or operations provided such activities or operations are consistent with this Agreement."

Negotiations on SOFA [Status of Forces Agreement] and operational issues were concluded last week. Sources close to the talks said that U.S. Adm. Ted Baker was "emotional and lost his temper several times during the proceedings."

U.S. Payment for Damaged Base Lands Urged

HK2602033191 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Feb 91 p 10

[By Marie Antonette Z. Cruz]

[Text] The rehabilitation of base lands and reverted base lands damaged by pollution or environmental problems must borne financially by the U.S. Government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR] ruled. The provision will be an adjunct to the existing bilateral agreements between the Philippines and the U.S.

Guidelines released by the office of Gregorio C. Magdaraog, DENR assistant secretary for Luzon operations, provide that a joint RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. team of environmental experts must first determine the extent of the pollutive damage before recommending its appropriate rehabilitation.

Moreover, the DENR ruled that disposition of natural resources in these areas, whether forest, land or mineral, shall be subject to the department's approval.

The above guidelines are part of DENR's proposed Environmental Protection Program in the base lands. This submits that all environmental concerns should be subject to DENR regulation. Identified environmental hazards include noise pollution, reforestation activities, utilization and exploitation of natural resources, oil slicks, solid, liquid or gaseous waste management, and hazardous and toxic waste disposal, among others. The guidelines also confer the Pollution Adjudication Board the role of final arbiter in all pollution concerns.

The DENR also pushed that the U.S. be required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all activities and projects carried out in the bases. These periodic EIS's will estimate the extent of damage in polluted areas which will then be paid for by the U.S. government.

Court Annuls Order Granting Ministers Other Jobs

HK2302052691 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] The Supreme Court has annulled President Corazon Aquino's order allowing her cabinet members to hold more than one government position. In a 30-page decision written by Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan, the tribunal declared unconstitutional Executive Order 284 issued by the president on 23 July 1987 which allows cabinet members to hold other positions in government-owned and controlled corporations while in government service. The court also said that the presidential order is considered as one of the midnight resolutions issued by the president before the Congress convened in 27 July 1987. The court added that the cabinet secretaries, undersecretaries, and their assistants can retain their ex-officio positions in the government as long as they do not receive additional compensation.

Aquino Welcomes Court Action

HK2302090891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Feb 91

[By Dick Sinchongco from Malacanang]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino announced she welcomes with pleasure the Supreme Court's decision declaring null her order allowing cabinet members to hold two other positions in government owned corporations. The president assured that the high tribunal's decision will be implemented immediately. Yesterday, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed that the president's executive order [EO], which she issued before the Congress opened its session in 1987, was unconstitutional. Under the EO 284, Cabinet members were allowed to hold two other positions in government corporations.

Meanwhile, the president instructed Solicitor General Francisco Chavez to ask the Supreme Court to give the executive department 30 days to carry out changes in the positions affected by the court's ruling. She also ordered Chavez to ask the high court to clarify the scope of what it terms as ex-officio positions in offices like the foreign debt council.

$3.3 Billion in Grants, Loans Pledged for 1991

HK2702055591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Feb 91 pp 1, 18

[By Marcia C. Rodriguez]

[Text] A total of $3.3 billion in grants and loans to the Philippines was pledged for 1991 by donor countries and multilateral financing institutions at the second Philippine Assistance Program (PAP) meeting in Hong Kong, reports reaching Malacanang said yesterday.

The delegates, in turn, gave pieces of advice to the government like putting in place permanent revenue measures to replace the temporary nine-percent import levy, maintaining a sound pricing policy for oil products, hastening implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), addressing fiscal imbalances, and enhancing international competitiveness.

President Aquino announced: "Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao gave me an initial report stating that the delegates of the Consultative Group indicated their willingness to grant loans and grants totalling $3.3 billion equivalent for 1991".

The amount is higher than the country's expectation of $2.5 to $2.8 billion in pledges this year but lower than the first PAP session's total commitment of $3.5 billion in Tokyo in July, 1989.

Mrs. Aquino said she is expected to receive today a full report on the pledging session including the breakdown of grants and loans from Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank [CB] Gov. Jose Cuisia, who both headed the Philippine delegation to the meeting.

The second PAP/Multilateral Aid Initiatve meeting was the 16th meeting of the Consultative Group for the Philippines under the chairmanship of the World Bank.

It was attended by delegations from 17 countries and six international agencies. The countries represented were Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Also present were representatives of the Asian Development Bank, the Commission of the European Communities, the International Finance Corp., the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Program/World Food Program, and the reports received by Malacanang indicated that the Consultative Group welcomed government's commitment to restore macroeconomic stability and growth momentum but urged it to pursue vigorously its structural reform program, in particular in the areas of trade liberalization, investment policy, privatization and financial sector reforms.

The group reportedly endorsed the government program aimed at tackling its long-term development problems related to material and child health and natural resource management but expressed concern over the "slow progress" in the implementation of the CARP.

The participants discussed the issue of poverty and in particular its links to population policy, environmental degradation and land reform, and cited the need for involvement of non-governmental organizations in these areas.

They also underscored the "need for quickly developing consensus between Executive and Legislature on the critical policy actions" and "forge consensus among the people by insuring that the burden of adjustment as well as benefits of growth are shared more quitably."

Malacanang attributes the support received by the Philippines to the preparedness of the country's representatives in answering questions on the economic program, Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes said.

The Philippine delegates briefed the Consultative Group on macroeconomic developments in 1990 and policy priorities for 1991- 1992. They informed them of the stabilization program which was formulated early this year and gained support of the IMF, leading to the approval of the $916 facility.

They noted, however, that the economic program had "gone off track in 1990" due to a series of economic shocks—drought, earthquake, typhoon and the Gulf crisis—and domestic policy slippages.

The Philippine government representatives said that by the end of 1990, the full amount of the pledges made at the last Consultative Group meeting in Tokyo in 1989 had been committed.

They noted that the government's external financing needs amount to $2.2 billion for 1991-1992 and that it continues its efforts to obtain adequate support from commercial lenders, both in the form of new money and debt service reductions.

"The delegates recognized the importance of continued support, so that the reform program can be adequately funded from all sources and the most painful effects on the most vulnerable groups can be cushioned...The delegates stressed that responsible burden-sharing between official and private creditors will be essential," the report stated.

Among the documents presented at the meeting were the Philippine government's "Progress Report on the Philippine Agenda for Sustained Growth and Development," "Medium-Term Public Investment Program, 1990-94," and the "Medium-Term Technical Assistance Program," and the World Bank report entitled "Philippines: Country Economic Memorandum Issues in Adjustment and Competitiveness."

European Commission Commits $140 Million Aid

HK2502070591 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 25 Feb 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] The European Commission will commit $140 million over four years to development assistance for the country at the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] pledging session in Hong Kong today and tomorrow.

Sources close to the European Commission in Brussels said Commissioner Abel Matutes, who is in charge of EC relations with developing countries, has written President Aquino to take the pledge as a sign of its continuing support for the country's newly restored democracy. The European Community was among the very first to recognize the Aquino government right after the Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution exactly five years ago today.

The dramatic rise in the EC assistance is in response to the request by Mrs. Aquino for a substantial increase in its pledge to show the way to the bilateral donors.

At the first PAP pledging session in Tokyo in 1989, the EC pledged $18.7 million for just a one-year period. This year's $140- million pledge over four years means a yearly commitment of $35 million from 1991-94.

On an annual basis, the amount represents an increase of 87% over the European Commission's participation in 1989.

Percentage-wise, the figure may be the highest increase among PAP supporters in the Hong Kong pledging session, unless topped by other major donors like the U.S. and Japan.

An added advantage of the EC's assistance package is that it is all in the form of grants, unlike loans from bilateral donors.

Diplomatic observers noted that this latest show of support by the European Commission appeared to have offset the cancelled visit to Manila by a group of European parliamentarians early this month.

The EC's pledge of assistance, the same observers said, was seen as a rebuff of the Utrecht-based National Democratic Front's maneuvers to convince the European Parliament to withhold official development assistance to the Philippines.

The European Commission, acting on behalf of the 12-member states, also defrayed expenses for the evacuation of over 9,000 Filipino contract workers last year during the Gulf crisis. It is still prepared to evacuate more in an emergency.

The EC also gave emergency assistance for the relief of earthquake victims last July 16 and, in addition, has a $28-million reconstruction and rehabilitation program in the devastated areas.

In the aftermath of typhoon "Ruping" late last year, the European Commission sent $750,000 assistance for a shelter program in Cebu.

Reporting from Hong Kong, Reuter quoted U.S. envoy Elliot Richardson as saying that despite its political problems and natural disasters, "the Philippines must remain tough and maintain its commitment to economic reform."

Voicing official American position, he said, "We feel they have done well in the face of the whole series of unfortunate occurrences in the past year or more, most of them beyond control of the government itself and the Philippine people."

Richardson arrived in Hong Kong to attend the PAP session where some 22 donor countries, including the U.S. and international organizations are expected to announce assistance pledges totalling $2.5 billion to $2.9 billion.

Foreign Debt Reduced by $2.5 Billion in 1990

HK2502065591 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 25 Feb 91 p 2

[By Ma. Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] The Philippines was able to reduce external debt by about $2.5 billion as of end-1990 through various debt reduction schemes, Central Bank [CB] Governor

Jose L. Cuisia Jr. said in a yearend report to president Aquino on the country's economic and financial developments.

Mr. Cuisia did not indicate the foreign debt stock as of yearend but latest figures from the CB show external liabilities of $29.034 billion as of October 1990.

Breakdown

As of end-1990, the country's debt reduction program may be broken down into debt-to-equity conversions ($968 million); debt- for-asset swaps ($369 million); excluded investments, i.e. equity investments which are not entitled to CB registration or to capital/dividends repatriation anytime in the future ($280 million); debt-for-debt swaps ($184 million); debt-for-note swaps ($152 million); and other debt reduction schemes ($517 million).

During the fourth quarter of 1990, the debt to equity conversions undertaken reduced debt outstanding by $24 million.

While the other debt reduction programs yielded $69 million in the same period—debt-for-asset swaps ($64 million), debt-for-debt swaps ($16 million); excluded investments ($6 million); and peso prepayment ($1 million).

Debt reduction was further made through Government's debt buyback of $1.3 billion in Philippine obligations at a 50% discount.

But despite these initiatives, debt reduction has been offset by net availments of foreign loans.

Applications

The report further said as of end-December a total of 489 applications for debt-to-equity conversions with an aggregate value of $2.27 billion had been received by the CB.

Of this number, 435 applications with a value of $1.67 billion were approved for conversion.

The bulk of approved transactions or 81% were channelled to preferred investments and the remaning 19% to less preferred investments.

During the period, a total of 271 applications involving an aggregate amount of $925 million were closed, 90% of which went to preferred areas of investment.

By type of paper converted, the closed transactions consist of the following: CB debt paper of $575 million; private sector debt paper of $249.3 million; and public sector debt paper of $54.6 million. Closed transactions also resulted in fresh money inflows of $46.1 million.

Classified by nationality of investors, $337.6 million or 36.5% of closed transactions were made by Filipinos and $587.4 million or 63.5% by other nationalities—the Americans representing the largest foreign investor group at $203.93 million.

Senate Labor Chairman on Kuwait's Reconstruction

HK2702103891 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 27 Feb 91

[By Jojo Ismael]

[Text] Senator Ernesto Herrera said that the government should use the military bases negotiations to enable Filipinos to get job contracts in Kuwait. The senator learned that there are many U.S. companies on standby to win Kuwaiti reconstruction projects. According to Herrera, the Senate Labor Committee chairman, the Philippine panel can incorporate the Kuwait project in its negotiations regarding the U.S. bases in the country. He proposed that the government should ask the United States to endorse Filipino companies to ensure that Filipino workers be given job opportunities in Kuwait. He added that he has consulted the Department of Labor and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration regarding the issue.

Thailand

Council To Give Interim Leader 'Full Freedom'

BK2702014591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 3

[Excerpt] Army chief Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday pledged to give the proposed interim government freedom and authority in administering the country and said the administration would not be just a puppet for the military junta.

Gen Suchinda and National Peacekeeping Council [NPC] leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong announced on Monday that a caretaker civilian government would be set up within a week.

"We will give full freedom to the person who will become the (interim) prime minister. The new prime minister must have freedom in administering the country or else nobody will want to accept the job," Gen Suchinda said yesterday.

The Army Chief said lifting of martial law would depend on the prevailing situation in the country.

Martial law would be maintained if there were continued moves to resist the military takeover, he said.

Gen Suchinda said he had heard that certain politicians had paid students to stage public protests against the coup, but he believed the reports were untrue.

He said the military would not try to interfere with the day-to- day operations of bureaucrats.

Under an announcement yesterday, Gen Suchinda and other deputy leaders of the National Peacekeeping Council were assigned to act as de facto Cabinet ministers. [passage omitted]

NPC 'Still Looking' for Caretaker Leader

BK2702032291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Feb 91 p A1

[Text] The National Peacekeeping Committee [as published] (NPC) is still looking for a qualified person to take over as caretaker prime minister after dropping three nominees for various reasons, informed sources said yesterday.

The three candidates were former Parliament president Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, renowned lawyer Praphat Uaichai and former interior minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot.

The military junta reportedly dropped Ukrit from the list because there is a legal dispute pending against him.

Sources close to Praphat said that the chairman of the defunct National Assembly, appointed to draft a constitution after the 1973 pro-democracy student uprising, declined the offer because of his failing health.

Sitthi's nomination was dropped because he agreed to chair a powerful committee set up by the NPC to investigate corruption charges against former Cabinet members who served under Gen Chatchai Chunhawan. "It won't look good if he holds two posts at the same time," a military source said.

General Sunthon Gives 26 Feb News Conference

BK2602143591 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 1230 GMT 26 Feb 91

[News Conference with General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council, with unidentified correspondents on 26 February—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I heard that the new prime minister should be a legal specialist, is this the most important qualification?

[Sunthon] Who said that?

[Correspondent] Should he be an economic specialist?

[Sunthon] It would be good for him to have abilities in every area, but it is not necessary that he be a specialist in all areas because we have the advisory team and specialists who can assist him.

[Question indistinct]

[Sunthon] [Words indistinct] but no decisions of any sort have been made.

[Correspondent] Will the cabinet to be formed include people outside the advisory team?

[Sunthon] There will be some.

[Correspondent] Is it true that there will be 13 ministries? Will deputy ministers be appointed for the 13 ministries?

[Sunthon] Perhaps there should be one deputy minister for every ministry.

[Correspondent] The entire cabinet will comprise how many people?

[Sunthon] I cannot say at this time. It depends if the minister feels can he handle the workload; if he cannot we might appoint a deputy for him. It will save money from the national budget as well.

[Correspondent] You said earlier that the cabinet list may be submitted to the king this week. Can you comment?

[Sunthon] I don't think there is enough time.

[Question indistinct]

[Sunthon] I cannot give the number at this time. It depends on the size of the tasks of each ministry. But we will try to appoint as few cabinet ministers as possible for economic reasons. In this way the savings from the funds allocated as ministers' salaries can be used for something else.

[Correspondent] Do you think a prime minister can be named before the ASEAN meeting in Bali?

[Sunthon] When is that?

[Correspondent] On the 3d of next month. This is a very important ASEAN meeting.

[Sunthon] I cannot answer this question at this time.

32d Announcement Appoints Additional Advisers

BK2702033891 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0305 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Thirty-second Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council—live or recorded]

[Text] To enable the National Peacekeeping Council to administer national affairs in an orderly manner, it therefore appoints the following additional advisers: **Political and foreign affairs advisers**

1. Somphop Hotrakit
2. Prasoet Nasakun
3. Chaiyachet Sunthonphiphit **Economic and Fiscal Advisers**
4. Amnuai Wirawan

Announced on 27 February 1991

[Signed] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council

Military Spokesman: Martial Law To Be Lifted

BK2702101291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 27 (AFP)—Martial law is expected to be lifted in Thailand after the appointment of a provisional government, a military spokesman announced here on Wednesday.

Martial law, which was declared when the military seized power in a Saturday coup from ousted Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's elected government, "is to be lifted after the situation returns to normal, which should be after the appointment of the provisional government," Colonel Banchon Chawansin said.

Chatchai To Be Freed After Congress Formed

BK2702020291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Feb 91 p B3

[Text] The military junta indicated yesterday that former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan who was ousted in Saturday's coup would remain in detention until after the general election it pledged to hold within six months.

Air Force Commander-in-Chief Kaset Rotchananin, a deputy leader of the ruling National Peacekeeping Committee [as published] [NPC], said Chatchai would be free after a new Parliament is established and an amnesty law enacted to effect his release.

Chatchai and several of his close men were captured at the air force's airport at the beginning of the military coup. Sources put the total number of detainees at about 30.

The NPC had said Chatchai would be released soon.

The junta on Monday set up a committee to investigate former Cabinet members and politicians accused of being "unusually wealthy". It was not immediately clear whether Chatchai would also face investigation by the committee, which is empowered to freeze assets believed to have been illegally acquired.

Describing Chatchai as "happy and fine", Kaset said the former prime minister "will be freed after we have a government and Parliament, as well as an amnesty law."

The junta justified its swift, bloodless coup by accusing the Chatchai government of being corrupt, harassing civil servants, attempting to destroy the military, creating a "parliamentary dictatorship", and trying to cover up the alleged assassination plot of 1982.

Junta leaders said Chatchai was "safe and sound" and is being treated like their superior.

"I can guarantee with all military dignity that Gen Chatchai is being taken good care of," said Air Force Secretary AVM [Air Vice Marshal] Prawit Photchanapraphan.

"He's much happier with us than in a five-star hotel."

Prawit said Chatchai's daily exercise now was jogging.

"We know he likes golf but that is impossible at the moment because of safety reasons," the air force official said.

Prawit also denied reports that former deputy prime minister Athit Kamlang-ek was injured when he was captured along with Chatchai and the others.

"Everybody detained is all right. Reports that Gen Athit was injured are not true. There was no bloodshed in this coup," he said.

Immigration Blacklists 9 From Leaving Country

BK2702021891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Feb 91 p A4

[Text] The immigration Division has blacklisted nine people to prevent them from leaving the country. They include two being hunted by the National Peacekeeping Committee [as published] [NPC]. Most of them are well-known academics and key politicians who were close to the former Chatchai government.

They are Col Manun Rupkhachon, who was accused of masterminding a spate of the 1982 alleged assassination attempts against three public figures; Phanat Suksomchit, another suspect in the case; Muanchon Party leader Pol [Police] Cap Chaloem Yubamrung, Panatchai Suphamit; Kraisak Chunhawan; who is son of former premier Chatchai Chunhawan; political scientist Chaianan Samutvanit, Phansak Winyarat; Bowonsak Uwanno; senator Phithak Intharawiriyanan and Surakiat Sathianthai.

Phansak, Kraisak, Surakiat and Bowonsak were policy advisers of the ex-premier. Manun was also Chatchai's close military aide while Phithak is said to be the premier's fund manager.

Chaloem and Manun are being hunted by the NPC who claimed that the former may try to disrupt public unity after the coup.

Phansak, Bowonsak and Phithak were still held in custody. The three were arrested along with Chatchai while they were leaving for Chiang Mai for an audience with His Majesty the King last Saturday.

Sunthon on Advisory, National Policy Meetings

BK2702140591 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong, in his position as head of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPC], talked to newsmen after the meeting of the National Policy Committee and the Advisory Board at Sanam Suapa today. He said today's meeting served to brief the attendants about the operational policy and to discuss how to carry out their duties. The National Policy Committee will meet first to set operational guidelines.

Asked whether any specific policies were assigned, General Sunthon said an urgent policy is to tackle the traffic problem in Bangkok. The Police Department has been assigned to tackle this problem on an urgent basis. Sunthon said the basic economic problems must be solved to enable low income earners to buy essential goods at cheaper prices. Pending further consideration, businessmen may be asked to reduce the price of essential goods.

General Sunthon said operational policy will be formulated in two ways. That is, the policy ideas will be set and the Advisory Board will study how they can be implemented and make recommendations to the NPC, or the Advisory Board may initiate proposals and submit them for NPC consideration.

Asked whether controversial projects of the past government will be reviewed, Sunthon said there is no review at this time because these projects are sensitive and could affect other agencies and the private sectors concerned. The projects which require large investment will have to be studied by the committees concerned before contracts could be signed. No projects have been picked for consideration at this time because they are not urgent.

Asked about formation of provisional government, Sunthon said formation is coming along. He could not answer now whether the prime minister will be a civilian or a military officer; he would not say anything until after the king makes an appointment.

Asked whether an amnesty law will be considered, Sunthon said he will have to study the issue in details first. Asked about the status of former prime minister General Chatchai, Sunthon said at this time it is necessary to keep him in a restricted area until after formation of government is completed. This is not done out of revenge. Transfers of officials are also not aimed at persecution of permanent officials, but are done for the sake of suitability in an effort to find officials who could work with the officials in charge.

Students To Be Tried for Anti-Coup Protest

BK2702132391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 27 (AFP)—Fifteen students, arrested two days ago for staging a public protest against the junta, are to be tried soon, police said on Wednesday.

The students, all members of a radical group at the city's Ramkhamhaeng University, are to be charged with breaking martial law regulations introduced immediately after Saturday's coup.

Uner martial law, public and political gathering of more than five people are banned.

The students were arrested on Monday for taking part in a demonstration denouncing the coup led by Thai supreme commander and junta leader Sunthon Khongsomphong.

During the protest, staged in front of the university, anti-junta leaflets were handed out to students and members of the public.

It was so far the only reported protest to have taken place in Thailand against the coup.

If convicted the students face up to six months in jail and a 10,000 baht (400 dollars) fine.

Provisional Constitution Presented to King

BK2702073991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong, in his capacity as head of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPC], gave an interview to reporters this morning at the Supreme Command Headquarters after receiving representatives of sugarcane planters and the Khlong Toei slum, who called on him to support the NPC operation. He said the moral support given by representatives of various groups will encourage the NPC to work for the benefit of the general public. It will also enable the NPC to identify more problems so that it can find measures to solve them and help the people.

Asked about people's representatives who have come to voice their problems, the head of the NPC said officials and agencies concerned would have to help them in this regard. However, it is difficult for there to be immediate results except for some cases. Some problems have to be solved on a long-term basis. Moreover, since the NPC has just taken over administrative power and this is the initial period, it is not appropriate to give the impression that it could do everything.

General Sunthon said members of the Advisory Team and the National Policy Committee were invited for a meeting this morning to discuss and explain the policy on the conduct of their duties at the initial stage. Asked about the drafting of the provisional constitution, he said it has been presented to his majesty the king for consideration and approval. The progress of this issue is expected to be made public within the next few days.

NPC To Probe Brokers on 25 Feb Stock Plunge

BK2702023291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Feb 91 p A2

[By Kokhet Chathaloetlak and Watchara Charunsantikun]

[Text] The National Peacekeeping Committee [as published] [NPC] yesterday ordered an investigation into 3 or 4 stockbrokers whom the military junta blamed for a sharp drop in share prices on Monday.

The Committee did not name the brokers but they were accused of dumping shares on Monday, causing the Stock Exchange of Thailand [SET] index to fall 57.40 points, or about 7 percent.

Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Wirot Saengsanit said the Finance Ministry was ordered to investigate 3-4 brokers whom he said had carried out "unusual practices" on Monday. He said they would be punished if proven guilty.

"Gen Suchinda Khraprayun (deputy leader of the NPC) has said there should not be any sort of attempt to undermine the stock market, as it is related to public confidence," Wirot said.

A SET official said the exchange had not received the order but added that authorities would investigate the allegations if they were notified.

Analysts, however, have generally agreed that the plunge on Monday was caused by investors panicking because of the military coup d'etat on Saturday and uncertainties in the Gulf War. Virtually all share prices fell to the floor level.

There were also rumours that ousted Cabinet ministers might try to discredit the military junta by undercutting share prices but many brokers said yesterday there was no suggestion that such attempts were being made.

Analysts said it would not be easy for anyone to try to influence overall share prices alone because of the volume of shares that would have to be dumped.

Market observers said there had been large sell orders on Monday from the time the market opened. But share prices went up with equal strength yesterday as the domestic political situation and news from the Middle East seemed more favourable to investors.

Monday's plunge in the stock index might have been attributable to three unusual transactions, analysts said, including a cross-transaction on a big lot—991,000 Bank of Ayudhya shares worth Bt [baht] 497.48 million through broker no 31, CMIC Finance and Securities Co. But the transaction was apparently done for tax reasons as it was during the dividend-paying period, they said.

Another was a big lot transaction of Siam City Bank at Bt12.25 each, worth Bt245 million altogether, through CMIC and broker no 15, Asia Credit. The third transaction was a 20-million-share trade of Bangkok City Bank, worth Bt230 million, through CMIC and broker no 18, Thai Financial Syndicate Co.

Sources said these transactions were made directly between buyers and sellers through prior agreement and not via the trading board.

Sub-Committees To Check Assets, Transactions

BK2702025791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] A sub-committee set up yesterday to check assets of people suspected of being involved in corruption.

The anti-graft sub-committee, directly subject to the committee chaired by former interior minister Sitthi Chirarot, will comprise representatives of the Bank of Thailand, the Revenue Department and the Auditor-General's Office.

The sub-committee will examine transactions of money and accounts concerning certain people from today. Transfer of assets of corruption suspects within the country or abroad will no longer be allowed.

The sub-committee's findings will be handed over to the Sitthi committee.

Central Bank Vows To Aid Anticorruption Panel

BK2702023091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] The Bank of Thailand has pledged full cooperation with the anti-graft committee set up by the National Peacekeeping Council to investigate former Cabinet ministers and politicians suspected of abusing their authority to amass huge fortunes.

Bank governor Wichit Suphinit said yesterday the central bank will assign officials to help the committee in the probe. He had already discussed this with a member of the committee, former central bank deputy governor Phaisan Kumanwisai. The committee is empowered to summon politicians suspected of having amassed huge fortunes to testify or hand over a list of their assets, documents and other material considered necessary for investigation. It can also go into any place or office during the day or official working hours to examine accounts, documents or other items belonging to politicians suspected of corruption. Any property found by the committee to have been acquired through corrupt practices is to be frozen unless the accused can prove otherwise.

Executive, Legislative Branches Separation Viewed

BK2602135991 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 25 Feb 91

[From the "Sayamanusati" program]

[Summary] During a policy briefing with news media on 24 February, the army commander in chief, in his capacity as deputy leader of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPC], said that our political system has been plagued by corruption. He said that General Chatchai Chunhawan, former prime minister, admitted it himself. A contributing factor to this situation is the necessity for politicians to raise funds for their political parties. This is called a buffet cabinet. It is dangerous for democracy. The army chief said this is a reason for the NPC to step in. It may not be possible to solve the problem through parliamentary means.

Parliamentary dictatorship, with an objective of enriching oneself and one's own party, has plunged the country into decadence. Several people already questioned the democratic system—whether it really serves the interests of the people. Some analysts blamed the system as making room for corruption. Anyway, we cannot blame the system alone, as individuals are also responsible. Thailand is a developing country, and it has the same problem as many other developing countries, that is, deep-seated corruption. Corruption has reached all sectors in the society. It has affected the development in all areas, economic, social, and political. In politics, each government tried to hold on to power in order to reap as much benefits as possible. It tried to monopolize power. Political opponents were pressured to get out of the way.

Vote-buying is the most critical problem in our political system. Political parties resorted to vote-buying in order to win a majority of the votes in the parliament to form a government. Once a party becomes the government with all the power given, it will make use of the power and influence to buy its way into the parliament again and again. All politicians have their eyes set on the influential posts of cabinet ministers. "In a politically developed country, it is possible to require that the prime minister and cabinet ministers must come from elected representatives of the people, or members of parliament, as this is in keeping with the democratic principle of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Members of parliament therefore should be given a chance to become cabinet ministers and rule the country. But some countries chose a system of power separation. That means administrative and legislative branches do not overlap each other in terms of authority or individuals. Members of parliament thus are prohibited from assuming cabinet posts. The reason given is this: representatives of the people naturally stand for the interests of the people who vote for them. Meanwhile, cabinet ministers stand for common interests of the whole. It is therefore impossible for a person to serve both as a member of parliament and a cabinet minister at the same time. He must opt for one or another."

"Dear listeners. We believe that all of you realize the state of the political situation in Thailand. Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, in his capacity as deputy leader of the NPC, has said that experts, both academicians and politicians who are trusted by the people, have been invited to draft a new constitution. The drafting should be as speedy as possible so that the NPC can return power to the people within six months. There will be no change in the democratic system with the king as head of state. Yet, we will have to cooperate and try to find a solution to the problem of our parliamentary system being exploited by politicians seeking personal gains or party gains. We must find out how to make elections serve the people's interests and produce only good and knowledgable parliamentarians. We believe that, with a firm determination to solve national problems, and with sincere cooperation given to us from all sectors, we should not disappoint the people."

Interior Ministry Bans Labor Action, Strikes

BK2702024091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] The Interior Ministry yesterday banned strikes by workers and shutdowns by employers.

Labor Department director-general Prasong Rannanon said the ban was effective today. He said any firms which had shut down because of a labour dispute must reopen immediately and any workers on strike before yesterday's announcement must return to work.

The announcement was sent for publication in the Royal Gazette yesterday.

Analysis Remarks on U.S. Attitude on Thai Coup

BK2702095591 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 27 Feb 91 p 3

["Analysis: A Note to the United States" by Sitthichai Thewathirarat]

[Text] The government of General Chatchai Chunhawan finally closed the curtain on itself, along with its "no problem" slogan. The government had suffered a considerable public confidence problem.

The first foreign reaction to the overthrow of the Chatchai government came from the United States. U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler questioned the legitimacy of the junta which took over power and expressed concern over the safety of the cabinet members, as well as noted the plan to suspend military and economic assistance to Thailand.

The Thai people in general want their country to advance along the democratic path in the same way as the United States, the UK, France, and other democratic countries. But Thai society has unique characteristics which make it different from other countries.

This does not mean that the Thai people are accustomed to or happy with the doctrine that condones the use of force. They know that it is not easy for a civilization in the Eastern world to adopt a democratic system. Although there are signs of success in Japan, Japanese democracy appears to be contrived, not natural, as in the UK or France.

Moreover, the Japanese military has no political role whatsoever as the result of the Japanese Constitution, whose drafting was masterminded by the United States.

The conduct of political and economic activities in different countries may differ somewhat in accordance with their history. The United States does not have much problem in this area because its civilization is the result of democratic experiments by settlers from various European countries. These experiments did not come easily either, as evidenced by the division of the union and confederacy.

Slavery existed in the early stages of U.S. democracy, and racial discrimination continued after the civil war. Several black leaders, including Martin Luther King, were assassinated.

In contemporary politics, as leader of the free world, the United States interfered in the internal affairs of many countries, including China, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In Thailand, the United States did not hesitate to extend cooperation to any leader for political benefits, even if the leader were practicing complete dictatorship, which eventually brought about the upheaval on 14 October 1973.

Thai people at present are not without political awareness as their older generation were when they were victims of U.S. ideological indoctrination. The U.S. periodical SERIPHAP [Freedom] tried to create negative image of China, causing Thai people to avoid association with other foreigners other than Americans. However, Nixon eventually went to see Mao Zedong and established diplomatic relations with China, leading other countries to rush to do the same.

It is difficult to establish if the United States stands for ideals or self interests.

Thai people at present comprise locally and foreign educated persons, progressives and conservatives, those who witnessed the 14 October 1973 incident and coup attempts, and those who support and oppose the most recent power takeover. They are Thai and thus can come to terms with each other. There is no need for the United States to enter the scene to play any role.

If the political situation should worsen, it would not be worse than what Thailand experienced in the past. Thailand survived those crises on its own. Thai people may not appear to be crazy for democracy, but they cherish freedom, more so than what the United States means when it says it cherishes democracy. This is because regardless of how much it cherishes democracy, it is supporting rightist, Marxist, and reactionary groups throughout the world. The United States should understand that other people do not think of Rambo as god, but as a fool or a strange individual.

The United States should not think that because youths wear jeans they are pro-U.S. Thai youths wear jeans on all kinds of situations. Thai people accept Western culture to make their lives easier and happier, they do not accept it in order to change their identity, like those in Singapore and Hong Kong.

The United States is practicing trade protectionism and is abusing its aviation privileges against weaker countries. It is forcing cancer [as published] on countries, such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand, which must trade with it. It has not been able to reach an agreement with Thailand over the number of flights between the two countries.

The Thai people do not want to feel that the United States is exploiting the Thai political problem to cut its assistance or discredit Thailand in the international political arena in order to force Thailand to accede to its proposals, using political change in Thailand as a bargaining chip in the same way it did with China over the Tiananmen Square incident.

If the United States hopes to do this the Thai people will be very disappointed, because they regard it as the hero of World War II and a hero for preventing Thailand from being regarded as defeated nation, which would have subjected Thailand to British and French exploitation. But if the United States concerns itself with petty self-interests, the Thai people will regard it as merely a Ninja turtle hero who has adopted Japanese culture while continuing to consume pizza and trying to promote it to other countries.

The Thai people want the democratic system to advance rapidly in form as well as in substance. They are aware of the necessity of the National Peacekeeping Council to take over power to solve various problems which were caused by selfish exploitation by the previous administration, but they also do not want to see promotion of democracy neglected by depriving them of their rights and freedoms.

No one can guarantee that the next election will be flawless and the new government will be completely honest.

Even if such government can be formed, people will eventually become bored with the absence of political change inherent in the parliamentary system, as happened during the Chatchai government.

Program Advocates 'Righteous' Men for Posts

BK2602093191 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 24 Feb 91

[From the "Sayamanusati" program]

[Summary] Phraya Mahathep, a senior official in the reign of King Rama III, was a powerful figure and was much feared by businessmen, the wealthy, and ordinary people at that time. "His official conduct, which lacked awareness of the prestige of his post and responsibility, caused great fear among the people surrounding him." He was arrogant and abused his power in many ways. An example of his conduct was to send his men to arrest opium traders, who instead of being punished, would become Phraya Mahathep's extortion victims. As these traders regained their wealth, they would be arrested again to be extorted by Phraya Mahathep. Phraya Mahathep amassed considerable wealth by abusing his power. He was later mortally wounded during an operation against opium dealers. After his death, no one would even donate a casket for his funeral. His subordinates deserted his family, whose members were fighting over his assets. The loot he amassed eventually evaporated completely.

"In our feature today we wish to give listeners some food for thought. Let us help to pick good, honest, and righteous men and support them so that they will have the opportunity to put their abilities and goodness to work for benefit of the people and the country at large. As the occasion arises when people present themselves to work truly for the country and exercise their power, prestige, and influence in an honorable, honest, and just manner, the destruction which results from injustice and unfairness will never occur. Only unity will result, and the conduct of duties in order to develop the country for prosperity will be successful."

Trade Talks With U.S. To Go On as Scheduled

BK2702031591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 24

[Text] A Thai delegation will leave as scheduled for the United States to hold informal talks on intellectual property rights [IPR], Commerce Department Permanent Secretary Patchara Itsarasena said yesterday.

Following yesterday's meeting with National Peacekeeping Council (NPC) deputy leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, Mr Patchara said the IPR meeting scheduled for early next month in Washington would proceed as planned.

He said the meeting was essential as the Thai side, to be led by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Commerce Kroekkai Chiraphaet, would have to reiterate its developments on the IPR issue, particularly the pharmaceutical patent.

The meeting would precede the US Trade Representatives' decision in mid-March on whether to accept a petition filed by the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association to exercise Section 301 against Thailand on the grounds it had delayed amendements to its pharmaceutical patent law.

However, Mr Patchara said the Thai side would not make any commitments to America during the meeting.

He also said ACM Kaset had agreed in principle that the other two meetings scheduled for next month should be postponed.

The first involved bilateral textile talks to resolve the dispute over various textile categories, and to negotiate on a new agreement in place of the previous one which expired in 1988.

The other was the ministerial-level meeting between the Thai commerce minister and the US counterpart, under the umbrella of the Thai-US Council which was formed last year to resolve the bilateral economic issues.

Mr Patchara said the ministry would inform the US Embassy in Bangkok of its decision.

World Bank Meeting To Go Ahead as Planned

BK2702041091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 24

[Text] The National Peacekeeping Council (NPC) has told the Finance Ministry to continue its preparations to host the World Bank/International Monetary Fund annual meeting in Thailand in October.

Finance Permanent Secretary Panat Simasathian said the instruction was given by Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, deputy NPC leader, who is in charge of the economic ministries, including finance.

Dr Panat said ACM Kaset also told the Bank of Thailand to continue its planned second-phase liberalisation of the financial market.

But the scheduled meeting of a committee to set the fiscal budge for 1992 yesterday was indefinitely postponed, he said.

Bank of Thailand Governor Vichit Suphinit said the Central Bank would go ahead with the second stage of its plan to liberalise the financial market as scheduled.

"The liberlisation will be in effect on April 1, this year," he said.

Details of the plan would be forwarded to Dr Panat, who would inform the NPC.

Ministry Welçomes Saddam's Withdrawal From Kuwait

BK2702015191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Feb 91 p B2

[Text] Thailand yesterday welcomed President Saddam Husayn's announcement on the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, a process the Iraqi leader said would be completed by yesterday.

Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Deparment, said: "Thailand welcomes the announcement, because any move which will end the war is a good thing."

But a final end to the war would depend on the decision of the UN Security Council, which had issued resolutions demanding that Iraq withdraw without any conditions, the ministry spokesman said.

He added that currently the Soviet Union was calling for an emergency meeting to consider the Iraqi move, so the issue rested on whether the council would agree to hold the meeting.

In his 30-minute speech yesterday, Saddam announced that from Monday night, Kuwait, which he had declared as Iraq's 19th province after the invasion and repeatedly vowed he would never leave, was no longer part of Iraq.

Laos Requests Permission To Buy Cement

BK2702033391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 24

[Text] The Laotian Government has sought permission from the Thai Commerce Ministry to buy 15,000 tons of cement from Thai manufacturers to solve a cement shortage in Laos.

An informed source in the ministry said yesterday the Laotian Foreign Trade and Industry Division's Thongpeng Southavong sent a letter of request to Commerce Permanent Secretary Patghara Itsrasena on February 4.

The source said the opening up of Laos in recent years created a big demand for construction materials, especially cement for construction in Vientiane, the Laotian capital.

Although Laos produced cement itself and received assistance from socialist countries such as Vietnam, Soviet Union, China and North Korea, it was unable to meet the high demand.

Moreover, Laotian people preferred Thai cement to cement imports from other countries.

In the letter, the Laotian government said if Thailand agreed to sell its cement, it would help Laos solve its shortage problem and also prevent the smuggling of cement across the Thai border.

Vientiane wanted to buy 15,000 tons of cement from Thai producers directly.

The source said because of the shortage of cement in Thailand last year, the Commerce Ministry decided to temporarily ban cement exports.

But the export ban did not help the Government prevent the smuggling of cement to Laos, in fact the smuggling had increased and caused a shortage of cement in some provinces along the border.

A decision to sell cement to Laos has been pending for some time, but the source said it was likely that Thailand might agree to sell the cement.

Vietnam

Commentary on Gulf War; Allied Land Offensive

BK2602140891 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Despite strong public protest, the United States and its allies have launched a ground attack against Iraq. Here is our radio's comment on this issue:

The land offensive conducted by the U.S. and its allies against Iraq entered its third day. U.S. Army Corps VII comprising two armored car divisions and a mobile infantry division made a thrust from western Saudi Arabia into Iraqi defensive lines and rushed into Iraqi territory. The attack was covered by allied air force which made a number of bombardments over Iraq and Kuwait. Meanwhile, U.S. war vessels fired hundreds of one-ton shells along Iraqi coast and landed marines there. This was the biggest attack by the U.S. Marines since the Second World War. Iraqi sources said that their forces have inflicted heavy casualties on the allied forces, putting out of action an Air Force unit. On the second day of the land offensive, Iraq made a fierce counterattack. Lieutenant General W. Bunnel, commander of the U.S. Marines in Saudi Arabia, admitted that the deeper they went, the fiercer the fight was.

A fact which is recognized by everyone is the longer the war is, the heavier the consequences will be. The Iraqi people, more than anyone else, are aware of this fact. That is why right after the Soviet Union and Iraq agreed on a peace plan, they were very happy waiting for peace. However, only several days later, their joy was replaced by sufferings and killings. The U.S. ground offensive against Iraq will further prolong the war which already killed many of their dear ones and caused great sufferings. This is a sorrow of not only the Iraqi people but also of the world people. For this very reason, in the first hours of the outbreak of the land offensive, public opinion in many countries voiced protest against the U.S. In Spain, more than 20,000 people staged a demonstration, forming a human chain in Barcelona in protest against the ground attack against Iraq. In London, hundreds of people took part in an antiwar rally. And in Yemen, more than 100,000 people demanded that the government break relations with allied countries.

Meanwhile, political circles expressed despair at the fact that U.S. and its allies deliberately conducted a ground attack although Iraq had agreed to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 660. Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu, head of a government which gave much aid to the U.S. to carry out the war also expressed regret at the U.S. ground attack. He hoped for an early end of the war. BBC Radio on Tuesday reported that once again Iraq had declared its withdrawal from Kuwait and its implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution.

Will the U.S. create favorable conditions for Iraq to do so? The answer to this question completely lies on the U.S. side. In the fierce hours of the land offensive, Iraq is still trying to seek a political solution to the war. The world people are expecting a positive response from the United States to put an early end to the war.

Organization Urges Peaceful Settlement in Gulf

BK2602154091 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 26—The Presidium of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations, at an enlarged meeting here Monday, expressed its dissatisfaction at the large-scale U.S.-led ground attack on Iraq.

The participants in the meeting earnestly called on the governments of other countries and all international and national organizations as well as prominent personalities in the world to continue all efforts, aimed at limiting and eventually putting an early end to the Persian Gulf War so as to settle the crisis by peaceful means.

Hanoi Fears Change in Thai Policy on Cambodia

BK2702013291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0117 GMT 27 Feb 91

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 27 (AFP)—Vietnamese authorities, reacting with caution to the military coup in Thailand, fear the change in government may also mean a change in Bangkok's Cambodian policy, reliable sources here say.

Hanoi took several days to react officially to Saturday's coup, which it termed an "internal" matter that it hoped "would not affect the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries."

"More than a setback for bilateral relations, which have strengthened in past years, the Vietnamese fear a toughening in Bangkok's stance on Cambodia," a Western diplomat said.

"Initial declarations by the Thai military on the need to incorporate the Khmer Rouge in a settlement of the Cambodian conflict are worrying Hanoi," said a source close to Vietnamese authorities.

Hanoi and Phnom Penh have both insisted that any settlement include strong measures to prevent a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its 1975 to 1979 rule.

The Khmer Rouge was ousted after Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and installed the current government. A UN-brokered peace plan that would pave the way for UN-supervised polls in Cambodia also calls for the disarming of the warring factions.

The Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh has rejected the dismantling of its military machine, arguing that it would be impossible to verify whether the Khmer Rouge, whose bases are located in remote areas of the country, were following suit.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge is militarily the strongest member of the tripartite resistance coalition fighting the Phnom Pemh regime. The other two, non-communist factions are led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann.

"We know that in the past the Thai military has spared no effort in supporting the opposition, especially the Khmer Rouge which it sees as the most capable of fighting the Vietnamese troops in Cambodia," the source said.

Since Vietnam announced its complete withdrawal from Cambodia in 1989—a claim refuted by the resistance—deposed Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan had fostered closer ties, especially of an economic nature, with Phnom Penh as well as Hanoi.

On the future of economic relations, the Vietnamese "are less worried because they believe that on that subject the Thais know where their best interests lie," the Western diplomat said.

"Besides, initial statements emanating from Bangkok in the past few days on the subject should be of comfort to Hanoi," the diplomat said.

A Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that Mr. Chatchai's policy of transforming "the battlefield of Cambodia into an economic market" would be continued. However, Hanoi may have some time to wait for any clearcut statement from Bangkok on the Cambodian question.

Among other things, the coup in Thailand spelled doom for a planned visit to Hanoi scheduled for the foreign minister in the ousted Chatchai government, Athit Urairat. A return trip by Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi to Bangkok has also been postponed.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on Thai Changes

BK2602152391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[From the "Press Review" for 26 February]

[Text] QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today carries in its "Current Affairs Review" an article by Duc Xao on the recent military coup in Thailand. The article says: To date, world opinion remains cautious about the military coup in Thailand. The United States was one of the first countries to react. In a statement, the U.S. State Department spokesman said: We deplore the change in government and constitution by military means.

Regional and international opinion is following with concern the events taking place in Thailand. General Sunthon Khongsomphong stated: There will be no change in any institutions. I will continue to honor all agreements already concluded with foreign countries. There will be no change in the foreign policy of Thailand.

The validity of Gen. Sunthon's words will be put to the test by reality in the days ahead. Will the administrators of the Thailand's new government be able to put forth policies that respond to the interests of the people and various social strata in Thailand? Only time can tell. However, it should be pointed out that Thailand is now facing a time of sociopolitical changes.

More Economic Cooperation Likely With Thailand

BK2302042991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Feb 91 p B2

[Text] Vietnam will likely develop into a crucial resource base for Thai industry as economic ties between the two countries strengthen, according to an economist, Dr Somchai Phakhaphatwiwat.

Speaking in Hanoi on the eve of the second round of negotiations between Thai and Vietnamese government officials, Dr Somchai said the complimentary nature of their economies stemmed largely from the fact that the two countries were at different stages of development.

This, he said, could lead to a relationship similar to those established between Japan and the Asian newly industrializing countries.

"While Thailand is in a position to provide Vietnam with consumer products, food, processed or semi-processed products and parts, Vietnam, with its abundant natural resources, could provide Thailand with raw materials and other primary products."

The economist noted that Thailand is strategically located to provide commercial and tourist links between the ASEAN countries, the West and Vietnam.

Through cooperation, ties between the two countries could be strengthened to the benefit of both, he said. While acknowledging that competition would be inevitable in areas where the learning curve is low like for rice and other crops, Somchai predicted that even in the most competitive areas, there would be room for cooperation.

Another sector which presents substantial opportunities for cooperation is the field of finance and investment, he said. "The reconstruction of Vietnam and particularly the establishment of a Saigon export processing zone (SEP Zones)" could well provide opportunities for further cooperation between the two countries.

"Moreover, Thailand with its finance and investment expertise, and its international links is embarking on a programme of financial liberalization that could boost it into a postion whereby it will be able to aid Vietnam in its reconstruction," he said.

Another area of potential cooperatiion is eduction, particularly in the field of management training.

In regard to international and regional detente, the prospects for regional cooperation, particularly between Thailand and Vietnam have brightened considerably. But, he stressed, cooperation should be based on the principle of mutual benefit.

"The economic crisis in Vietnam created by wage and currency reforms in late 1985, on the one hand, resulted in a dramatic shake-up in the Vietnamese Communist Party and, on the other hand, prompted radical economic reforms which were finally adopted at the Sixth National Congress of the Party held in December 1986."

The reform or the so-called "doi moi" led to the relaxation of restrictions on both foreign trade and foreign investment, and culminated in the adoption of a new foreign investment law in 1987.

The Vietnamese economic reform with its more outward looking orientation, coupled with a softening of the Vietnamese approach toward the Kampuchean problem, finally led to the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops in September 1989 and helped pave the way for improved trade relations between Thailand and Vietnam.

Moreover, Gen Chatchai Chunhawan's policy to "turn the battleground into a market place" was responsible for reinvigorating trade relations between the two countries.

Official Interviewed on Agreements With USSR

BK2602150791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Interview with Ho Huu Nghiem, deputy head of the State Planning Commission, by unidentified station correspondent; date and place of interview not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Recently we have signed some agreements on economic and commercial cooperation with the Soviet Union for 1991, could you speak of the main points of these agreements?

[Nghiem] As you know, on 31 January 1991 our country and the Soviet Union signed two agreements, with the first agreement on shifting the economic and commercial cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union to a new mechanism and the second on Vietnamese-Soviet economic and commercial cooperation for 1991. These are a new step of development toward further enhancing and broadening the friendly relations and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. Of the two newly-signed agreements, the agreement on shifting to a new mechanism of cooperation between the two countries contains the following main points:

—First, from 1991 onward, the two countries will shift to making financial settlements with the use of hard currency obtained from the free market at international exchange rates.

—Second, the two countries undertake to continue to implement all those agreements already signed in 1990—under the old conditions which allow for the use of the old exchange rate—until 31 March 1991, including the settlement of payments for personnel such as wages for experts, and money for buying air tickets for them, etc..

—Third, the two countries undertake to exchange an important quantity of goods at the government level.

[Correspondent] How about the remaining part of the old agreements to be implemented by various sectors, localities, and establishments of Vietnam and the Soviet Union?

[Nghiem] As far as the remaining part is concerned, the two governments will encourage and create favorable conditions for various sectors, localities, and establishments to directly deal with one another as planned and instructed by the two governments.

[Correspondent] Anything new in the newly-signed economic and commercial agreement for 1991?

[Nghiem] As for the economic and commercial agreement for 1991, the two governments undertake to exchange some quantities of essential marketable materials valued at nearly US$1 billion. Under the agreement, Vietnam will export to the Soviet Union its farm produce such as rice, meat, rubber, tea, and coffee; a portion of its crude oil exploited under the framework of the Vietnam-Soviet oil and gas joint venture; and garments, shoes, bicyles and bicycle parts; and those replacement parts needed for ship repair.

[Correspondent] Did the Soviet side give any assurance in the recent signing of agreements?

[Nghiem] The Soviet Union assures us that it will deliver to Vietnam various products such as oil, iron and steel, cotton, and some other materials and products. In addition, the Soviet Union will continue to help Vietnam build those fully-equipped projects already agreed upon. This help is of great significance for the Vietnamese economy, for it is targeted chiefly at building the electricity sector and the infrastructure.

[Correspondent] What can we benefit from the signing of these agreements for economic development?

[Nghiem] Through the signing of these agreements with the Soviet Union, we have more concrete material conditions to pursue various objectives and plans already approved by the National Assembly and to ensure the implementation of various objectives of these plans. With the imports from the Soviet Union, we will be able to meet almost all the needs for iron and steel and for cotton and fertilizer, and a bulk of requirements for oil and gas and other essential materials. Also, through the signing of agreements with the Soviet Union, we will be able to solve a very important question of import and export market, notably export market, and through this, we will be able to effectively solve the employment issue.

[Correspondent] You, comrade, have spoken about the contents of those economic and commercial agreements recently signed between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. According to you, what should we do to translate these agreements into reality?

[Nghiem] The recent signing of agreements with the Soviet Union was a great success. Immediately after the signing of the agreements, the State Planning Commission briefed a standing body of the Council of Ministers on the outcome of the signing of the agreements between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. Based on the outcome of the signing of agreements with the Soviet Union, the standing body of the Council of Ministers has instructed various sectors and echelons to come up with urgent measures to materialize these agreements with the Soviet Union. The signing of these agreements itself has been an initial success. However, the real outcome will depend on the implementation of these agreements. For our side, we should solve a host of problems concerning our mechanism as we are shifting to a new mechanism of cooperation with the Soviet Union and are having to solve the question of capital for our production and business units so they can manufacture goods for export to the Soviet Union and can import Soviet-made products.

[Correspondent] Thank you, comrade.

French Oil Company Studying Joint Venture

BK2502140091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 25 (AFP)—French oil company Total is studying the possibility of joining Soviet-Vietnamese joint venture Vietsopetro to develop Vietnam's oil deposits, a French industry source said here Monday.

Total's Director General Pierre Vaillaud is in Vietnam to hold discussions on a proposed oil refinery and a joint venture to extract oil in the south of the country.

The company has been searching for oil in the Gulf of Tonkin north of Vietnam since December 1989, but its three test wells have not yet located any deposits, Mr. Viallaud said.

"Despite the negative results...Total is willing to continue exploring either that region or in another," he said.

"We are interested, like everyone else, in the offshore areas in the south of the country," he said, adding that Total would need several months of analysis before deciding whether to continue exploration in the Gulf of Tonkin.

"We are having talks with Vietsopetro about joining together to exploit reserves in the south of the country," Mr. Vaillaud said.

Vietsopetro, which employs almost 1,000 Soviets, produced 2.7 million tonnes of crude in 1990 at its Bac Ho (White Tiger) oil field.

U.S. company Mobil, which discovered the deposits in the 1970s before the fall of the Saigon government, is also in the running to join with Vietsopetro.

However, a U.S. trade embargo against Hanoi currently blocks Mobil from joining in a joint venture with Vietnam.

Vietsopetro is looking for a western partner to cut its production costs, according to a French oil industry source.

The Vietnamese company is planning to increase production to 3.5 million tonnes this year by opening the Dai Hung oil field, also in the south of the country.

Mr. Vaillaud also discussed building a refinery to process Vietnam's crude, which at the moment is all exported, mostly to Japan. The Soviet Union has a near monopoly on supplying Vietnam with refined petroleum products.

According to experts, a refinery project would be unlikely to receive backing from international financial organisations because of the existing refining capacity in Southeast Asia.

"A good project can always find financing," said Mr. Vaillaud, who contests that there is any over-capacity in the region.

Swedish Group Invests in Highlands Education

BK2402090991 Hanoi Vietnamese Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 February, at the Government Guest House, Dam Quang Trung, vice chairman of the Council of State, had a working session with a children's relief delegation from Sweden headed Mr. Thomas Hamabiek, general secretary of the Sweden Children's Relief Organization. Trinh Ngoc Trinh, director of the Highlands Education Development Organization [HEDO]; and representatives of the Council of Ministers' Office, the Office for Development of Mountain Regions, and the Ministry of Education and Training attended the session. Also present were Mrs. Kerstin Birgitta Johansson, Swedish ambassador to Hanoi; [words indistinct] representative in Vietnam; the director of the Asian Program; and members of the Swedish delegation.

Vice Chairman Dam Quang Trung informed the guests of the current major policies and positions of our party and state in developing education in mountain regions. At the same time, he clearly pointed out the important role and effect of the HEDO, a nongovernmental organization of Vietnam set up more than a year ago to invest in and assist the development of education in the mountain regions of Vietnam. He wished that the HEDO will continue to receive active and comprehensive assistance from the Sweden Children's Relief Organization.

Speaking at the reception, the general secretary of the Swedish organization and the Swedish ambassadress expressed their understanding of Vietnam's difficulties in developing education in the mountain regions at present. They also promised to urge the Swedish people to continue cooperating with and giving even more assistance to the HEDO's education development work.

During their stay in Vietnam, the Swedish delegation had working sessions with the HEDO. Director Trinh Ngoc Trinh exchanged views with the delegation on the conditions of mothers and children in the regions inhabited by various ethnic minorities, hoping that Sweden will invest in children's and general education in Vietnamese mountain regions.

Sweden will invest in and assist the building of the Bac Ha Day-Care Center in Hoang Lien Son Province. The Swedish delegation made a token donation of U.S. $10,000 for the purchase of equipment for a laboratory and a library, sporting goods, and musical instruments for the Highlands Secondary School of Hoang Lien Son. This is the first foreign nongovernmental organization to invest in developing education in Vietnam's mountain regions.

Congress Preparation Must Be 'Truly Democratic'

BK2602144291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[From the "Press Review" for 26 February]

[Text] Dealing with the subject of holding grass-roots party congresses, NHAN DAN today carries an editorial entitled: "Firmly Grasp and Correctly Meet the Requirements of Party Organization Congresses at Various Levels."

The editorial says, among others things: The process of preparing for and holding party organization congresses at all levels must be closely linked with the implementation of the various resolutions of the party Central Committee and Political Bureau, and with the taking of another important step to consolidate the party, to purify its ranks, and to raise their militancy. This is also part and parcel of the renovation process and a task aimed at strengthening the party's leadearship and enhancing unity and singlemindedness within the party on the basis of the party's line, and improving the close relations between the party and the people to create a mass movement in the renovation process.

The factor deciding the success of party congresses at various levels is that the party committee as a whole and each individual committee member must personally prepare for the congresses. This preparatory process must be truly democratic, with the intellect of the entire party organization being brought into full play and contributions by the people being eagerly sought in every step, including the drafting of documents and the formulation of working and personnel plans for the party congresses.

Nguyen Xuan Hoe Article on Party Congresses

BK2702102991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 21 Feb 91

["Article" by Major General Nguyen Xuan Hoe, director of Organization Department of the General Political Department]

[Text] The drive to broadly solicit suggestions from the armed forces on the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress has been basically completed according to plan. In the coming days, party organizations at various levels will formally hold their congresses to discuss the documents to be presented to the National Party Congress by the party Central Committee. The General Political Department, working together with the units concerned, directly guided the holding of pilot congresses in three grass-roots party organizations of the Air Defense Force, the Quyet Thang Corps, and the Vietnam People's Army General Staff to draw common experience for application in other units. These grass-roots party organizations conducted their congresses in a serious manner, thereby developing their internal democracy, heightening their sense of responsibility, promoting lively discussions, and achieving good results. From the practice of these party organizations, we can draw the following concrete experience on the way to hold party congresses:

First, we must satisfactorily carry out ideological work before kicking off the congresses. This time around, party congresses raise very high requirements and have an extensive content. Moreover, they are going to be convened at a time when major developments are taking place around the world, especially the Persian Gulf, and when the domestic situation is also developing in a complex manner, with commodity prices skyrocketing and the people facing numerous difficulties in their daily life. On top of that, the enormous volume of work that has to be done urgently in the early days of the year will also have a direct impact on the hearts and minds of everyone. For this reason, ideological work must be satisfactorily performed and responsibilities clearly defined; that is, we must concentrate on doing a good job in holding party congresses while ensuring the fulfillment of other tasks and stabilizing the activities of all units in every respect. We must firmly grasp the goals and requirements of the first-round party congresses to develop internal democracy to a high level, and must concentrate our intellectual power on discussions to elucidate the basis of theory and practice, to distinguish right from wrong, and to contribute highly valuable ideas to the formulation of the party's fundamental viewpoints which will be reflected in the various documents to by submitted to the Seventh Party Congress with the aim of taking the country forward. On this basis, we must create a high level of solidarity and unity of views within the party. The higher the congress, the greater this unity must be, and the more worthy people must be elected to attend upper-level party congresses to make important contributions to their success.

To ensure that party congresses will achieve good results, preparations, especially the writing of summary reports, must be carried out with care. Good preparation will decide the outcome and quality of a party congress. All party committee echelons and party members must be prepared in all respects, but special attention must be given to the preparation of the summary report on the contents of issues to be discussed at the congresses, which must be considered as the most important task of all. Relying on the contents of the party Central Committee's documents and on the suggestions made by cadres, party members, and the masses in their units, party committee echelons must make a summary report to be presented to the congresses. Such a report must fully reflect the views contributed by party members and the masses and must include issues on which there is unanimity of views, issues requiring emphasis, issues to be added, and issues different from those raised in the the party's draft documents. All these opinions must be respected, but, in the report, it is also necessary to bring up common issues concerning current trends and viewpoints as well as outstanding questions of public concern and specific but important ideas. The content of the report must be divided into two parts, with one devoted to assessing the results of the recent public disscussions of the draft documents. This part, though not the key one, is important. The other part mainly contains a summming up of the public suggestions and the issues discussed at the party congress. Party committees must bring up issues in accordance with the guidelines spelled out by the party Central Committee in the draft documents and with the suggestions made by cadres, party members, and the masses in their own units. They should refrain from making up issues themselves or borrowing ideas from other units.

In practice, in holding their congresses, the three grass-roots party organizations of the Military Science Department and the E-280 and E-102 Units divided the draft documents into two groups for discussion, with the first group comprising the Draft Platform, the Draft Economic Strategy, and the Draft Political Report, and the second group composed of the Report on Party Building and the Amended Party Statutes. The congresses focused their discussions on individual documents in each group and on some key points of each document which had received the most suggestions.

In general, each document deals with two or three major issues but as far as party statutes are concerned, attention should be devoted to discussing amendments and supplements raised in the various chapters and articles. Nonetheless, the difference in the nature of the specific issues facing party organizations at research agencies and party organizations at grass-roots units often leads to different topics of discussion. In certain cases, only major issues need to be discussed. In others, attention is devoted mainly to minor problems. Regardless, there must be one thing in common, namely efforts must be made to discuss matters of principle instead of trifling ones.

To guarantee good quality debates, all party committee echelons must keep everyone informed of the contents of the topics of discussion in advance. This will enable primary party organizations to exchange opinions and have party members gather views to be presented at the party congresses.

While expressing their opinions, the speakers must present their viewpoints in a rational way and must let everyone know the reasons why they agree or disagree with this or that issue and must also recommend problem-solving methods. They must listen to different opinions and help clarify the various issues under discussion. This way, everyone will have a better idea of the issues involved. Also, efforts must be made to stick to matters of principle and to avoid the tendency to pay too much attention to speech patterns and terminology. Of course, speech patterns and terminology are of important significance.

Once the comrade party committee secretaries have finished reading their summary reports, the congress presidiums should invite the participants to begin the debates at once instead of repeating the views already expressed, thus giving the congresses more time for discussions.

As far as the discussions are concerned, it is necessary to fully understand the main contents of the party's draft documents and the issues raised at the congresses. It is important to see to it that the discussions take place in a truly democratic atmosphere and to make sure that everyone is encouraged to express views, particularly opposite views and opinions of the minority, and to help clarify the various issues under discussion.

While discussions are in progress, the congress presidiums must pay close attention to the opinions expressed and raise opposite views and new problems to promote discussions. Regarding workstyles, the congress presidiums must promote teamwork and assign personnel to take care of supervision, guidance, and follow-up work as well as to prepare summary reports at the end of each discussion session. Once the discussions of each group of documents have been completed, a summary must be made before soliciting everyone's opinion. A summary of the presidium's views could also help party members improve their knowledge. A summary must include all the views expressed at the congresses and must help shed more light on the theoretical and practical aspects of each problem. Also, it must not be too condensed or deprived of individual views.

As for the recording of votes at the congresses, this must not be carried out in the form of decisions taken by the majority but must be based on the number of views and the contents of each document. Therefore, the views of alternate party members also count. The collection of views can be effected through voting by hand and can also be based on the specific problems raised in each document. It is necessary to count the number of votes which support or recommend amendments to or show different views with the draft documents.

Except for the terms amendment and supplement, the secretaries in charge must also make a record of other terms used at the congresses for submission to higher echelons.

The elections of delegates to the congresses are of equal importance and must not be treated lightly. Strict guidance is needed here. It is necessary to strictly adhere to set selection criteria in order to elect typical comrades capable of bringing into full play their party organizations' intellect and of securing effective results and high quality for upper-level party congresses. Therefore, it is imperative to strictly comply with set election procedures and guidelines as well as to avoid imposition or anything which may cause misunderstanding.

Regarding the time-table for the congresses, it all depends on the nature of each party organization. However, generally speaking, a time frame lasting from one to three days would be appropriate. Grass-roots organizations at the battalion level and subordinate units having less than 50 party members will need one and a half to two days. As far as the actual time for the discussions of each group of documents is concerned, we will need one and a half days for the first group and one day for the second group. The remaining time will be reserved for elections and some other tasks to be carried by the congresses.

Those are some concrete yet very important points that we would like to share with all units so that they may study and put into practice. This way, we can guarantee high quality for grass-roots party congresses and create conditions for the officials in charge to file summary reports based on the views contributed by grass- roots organizations, thus guaranteeing higher quality for the National Party Congress.

Dong Sy Nguyen Visits Quang Ninh Province

BK2502153491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] On the occasion of the lunar new year, from 19 to 22 February, Dong Sy Nguyen, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, paid a working visit to Quang Ninh to inspect the province's plans for socioeconomic development in 1991 and in the 1991-1995 period. Accompanying the vice chairman were the ministers and vice ministers of marine products; agriculture and food industry; water conservancy; forestry; communications, transportation, and posts; and labor, war invalids, and social welfare. The party also included leading cadres of the State Science and Technology Commission, of various army corps engaged in economic building, and of Hai Hung, Ha Nam Ninh, and Thai Binh Provinces and Haiphong Municipality.

Vice Chairman Dong Sy Nguyen inspected production work and the living conditions of the people in various localities. He heard reports on orientation of socioeconomic development, especially on ways to exploit the land potential and other abundant natural conditions for developing agriculture, forestry, and marine product farming, and for improving the people's living standards in Yen Hung, Tien Yen, Quang Ha, and Hai Ninh Districts.

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Ho Chi Minh Factory

BK2302134391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] On the morning of 22 February, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh paid a visit to the Vietnam Union of Tobacco Enterprises and Saigon Tobacco Factory.

The general secretary exchanged views with officials of the two establishments and inquired about the production and marketing of their products. He welcomed the innovative, dynamic, and creative spirit of the board of directors and all workers of the union which is reflected in its active in-depth investment and its expeditious renovation of equipment and technology, creating ever higher output, quality, and efficiency.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed elation over the great achievements of the Saigon Tobacco Factory and advised it to strive for even more comprehensive renovation, to turn out large amounts of quality products at low costs to compete with foreign-made goods.

Radio Reviews Feb 91 TAP CHI CONG SAN

BK2602154191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Summary] Today's press review program is devoted to introducing the contents of the February 1991 issue of TAP CHI CONG SAN.

"The journal begins with a communique of the Sixth Party Central Committee's 11th plenum."

This is followed by an article entitled: 'Our Party Must Renovate and Revamp Itself,' by Nguyen Duc Tam, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau. "The article affirms that all achievements of the Vietnamese revolution are closely linked to the correct leadership of the CPV and the Great President Ho Chi Minh, as well as to the successes in party building work. The article then points out the need for the party to "revamp itself in all aspects with the aim of intensifying the working class' nature and the party's vanguardism."

Article: 'Renovate the Activities of the Vietnam Trade Union,' by Nguyen Van Tu, chairman of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers. The author points out the present role and functions of the trade union which, apart from protecting the interests and right to mastery of workers and participating in economic management and state management, serves as "a socialist school for workers and laborers."

Article by Nguyen Phu Trong: 'The Market Mechanism and the Issue Concerning Cadres,' presenting some views on the issue concerning cadres at a time when the economy is switching to the development of the production of goods.

In this issue, the 'Proceeding Toward the Seventh Party Congress' column had an article 'Recapitulating the Contents of the Debate on the Substance of the Era, Which Was Held Recently by the International Section of the Journal.'

Article by Le Huu Nghia, holder of a master degree in philosophy: 'The Concept of By-passing the Stage of Capitalist Development.' The author presents his viewpoints concerning the question of by-passing the stage of capitalist development in Vietnam.

Article by Thanh Son: 'It is Necessary to Further Define the Structure of Economic Components.' In this article, the author reinforces and further illustrates a number of points in the structure of economic components in the draft strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development.

Article by Tran Duc suggesting that it is more proper to say "renovate" than "consolidate" cooperatives and the state-operated economic sector.

Article by Phong Ly, director of the Institute of Literature of the Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences, discussing "relations between tradition and present day and between nationality and mankind."

Article by Nhi Le: 'Rural Development,' pointing out "new changes and encouraging achievements in the rural areas at present, together with complicated problems which emerged recently in these areas which are causing deep concern to the party and state."

Article by Tran Duc Thao, professor of philosophy, criticizing some incorrect viewpoints in Ha Si Phu's article dealing with human evolution.

The 'Opinion and Experience' column consists of the following:

—Article by Nguyen Vinh Nghiep, chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, pointing out "Ho Chi Minh City's Socioeconomic Strategy."

—Article by Vo Dang Chinh reviewing the actual situation of literary theory and criticism in the recent past.

Found in the 'activity and ideology' is an article by Nguyen Tien criticizing scientific researchers for clinging to an obsolete idea by "attaching importance to reputation rather than ablity and actual knowledge."

In the 'Letters to the Editorial Staff' column, the journal carries an article by Nguyen Van Loc pointing out irrationalities in the staff allocation at present and introducing a number of measures for reducing staff personnel.

In the 'World, Problems, and Events' column, there is an article by the commentator entitled: 'What Has Been Seen from the War in the Gulf Region?' The author points out the reasons behind the failure to prevent the bellicose forces from escalating this war.

Next is an article by Nguyen Trong Thu presenting a brief review of the real state of human rights in the United States and other western countries. "The article affirms that only socialism can solve the issue of human rights definitely."

This is followed by an article by Vu Hien: 'In the Face of the New Opportunities and New Challenges,' pointing out profound changes of the world in the domains of economics, politics, and security during the past decades.

The 'Through Foreign Publications' column presents an article dealing with an exchange of views between a Soviet historian and a CPSU theoretician on how to correctly acknowledge and evaluate Marxism.

Australia

Hawke Urges Iraq To Accept All UN Resolutions

BK2702103291 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Feb 91

[From the program "Interntional Report"]

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Bob Hawke, has clearly backed the United States position that a cease-fire is only possible if Saddam Husayn accepts unequivocally all 12 UN resolutions. Mr Hawke also said it is legitimate for the coalition forces to fire on retreating Iraqi troops if they are armed. Tony Hastings reports from Canberra:

[Begin recording] [Hastings] Despite the dramatic developments in the Gulf, no senior Australian Government ministers have spoken to the media about the situation for more than 24 hours. It would seem Mr Hawke decided to speak only after President Bush's reaction to Saddam Husayn's decision to withdraw had become clear. Certainly the prime minister's position was exactly in line with Washington that a cease-fire is only possible if Iraq accepts all the United Nations resolutions on Kuwait. But Mr Hawke said so far Saddam Husayn has not accepted those resolutions, in particular, the prime minister pointed out that Saddam Husayn has not renounced his annexation of Kuwait and he quoted from the Iraqi leader's statement on Baghdad Radio.

[Hawke] All valiant Iraqi men, all glorious Iraqi women: Kuwait is part of your country and was carved from it in the past. Today, certain circumstances made the Iraqi Army withdraw. Now, it is quite clear from his statement, and indeed his actions therefore that he has not accepted all the United Nations resolutions which quite specifically assert as they should assert the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait. It is my profound hope that he will at the end say personally that he does now accept all the resolutions of the United Nations. That is all that is required. If that is done and then the war is finished and no more lives need be lost.

[Hastings] Prime minister, do the UN resolutions authorize allied forces to (?attack) Iraqi forces in Iraq?

[Hawke] They do, not for the purpose of us trying to acquire Iraqi territory, but you will appreciate that from the beginning, for instance, the elite Republican Guards have been parked in southern Iraq, just to the northern borders of Kuawit and they have probably been the subject of intense aerial bombardment. They have been part of the operation of taking and holding Kuwait from Saddam Husayn's point of view. But I want to emphasize that it is not part of the allied objective to capture and retain Iraqi territory. It is really related to achieving the stated objective of the United Nations.

[Hastings] Mr Hawke said he believed it will not be necessary to pursue the Iraqi forces to Baghdad because victory will be achieved shortly in and around Kuwait and he argued that it is legitimate for the coalition forces to fire on retreating Iraqi troops if they are armed, but he said unarmed troops heading north are not being harmed.

[Hawke] Already where troops have laid down their arms some of them have been allowed to pass. That has already happened where they clearly laid down their arms and they have been allowed to go through. Of course, if you let them go through with their arms, in the absence of acceptance of the United Nations resolutions, there could simply be a regrouping subsequently with their arms and renewal of their position. [end recording]

Evans: Iraqi Statements No Basis for Cease-Fire

BK2702070391 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says recent statements by Iraq's president, Saddam Husayn, do not constitute a sufficient basis for a cease-fire. In a written list of points for the media, Senator Evans said Mr. Husayn has still not got the message. Iraq's withdrawal must be unconditional, he must accept all 12 UN resolutions, and in particular, he must unequivocally renounce his annexation of Kuwait.

Senator Evans adds that in the absence of a cease-fire, it is (?reasonable the more) to require that retreating Iraqi forces should be unarmed if they wished to avoid coalition attacks. Otherwise he says the risks remain that once out of the Kuwait theater, the Iraqis will regroup to attack coalition forces.

Minister Lauds New Round of GATT Talks

BK2702071891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Australia's trade negotiations minister, Dr. Blewett, has welcomed moves to restart the Uruguay Round of international trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, known as GATT. Dr. Blewett welcomed the move as the best long-term prospect for the economies of Australia and the world. However, he warned that new attempts of liberalizing international trade, especially in agriculture, will not be quick or easy.

The earlier negotiations broke down after the United States and the European Community failed to reach any compromise over agricultural subsidies and exports support.